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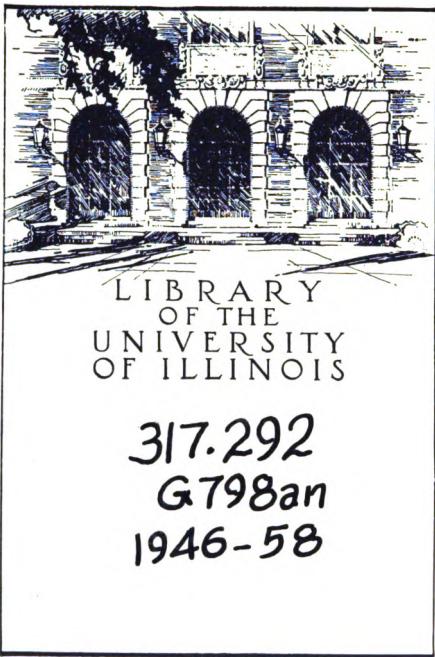
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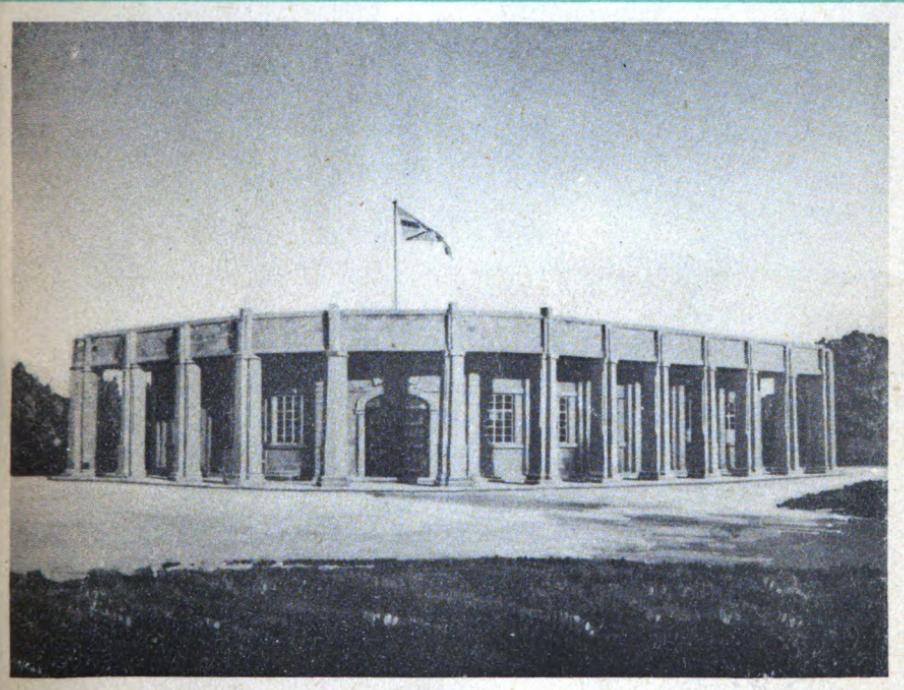


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*COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS*

# Cayman Islands

## 1946



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## COLONIAL OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE  
**CAYMAN ISLANDS**  
 (Dependency of Jamaica)

FOR THE YEAR  
 1946

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The cover illustration shows the Government  
Offices, George Town, Grand Cayman.

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## INTRODUCTION

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THERE has been considerable improvement in the social and economic position of the Dependency during the last decade. Revenue during this period has practically doubled itself and as a result funds have been available for the carrying out of many essential public works. This increase in Revenue was caused in the first place by income derived from the sale of stamps of two special issues—the Coronation Issue of 1937 and the Pictorial Issue of 1938. Then came the War and practically every able-bodied man not already at sea and not employed in a reserved occupation volunteered for service in the Merchant Navy, the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve or the Army. A number of men were employed in the Canal Zone as skilled workmen by contractors to the United States Army and Navy. The remittances out of the high wages made by these men to their families in Cayman resulted in a sharp rise in the spending power of the inhabitants and this in turn was reflected in the rise of Imports with an accompanying rise in Revenue. The circulation of American Dollars by the members of the Unit of the United States Navy and later the Coast Guard stationed since 1942 at the Base in Grand Cayman also had its effect on the economy of the Dependency.

In 1937 a free grant from Imperial Funds enabled four Lighthouses in Grand Cayman, and one each in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, to be erected, and in the same year the small 4-bed Hospital at Georgetown was reconstructed. 1938 and 1939 saw many improvements, in the shape of the erection at Georgetown of a Library and the new Government Building housing the Treasury, Customs and Post Office. Town Halls built in the four principal Districts of Grand Cayman served the people not only as social centres but as schools and it is unfortunate that the War prevented the completion of the scheme which included the erection of similar buildings at Cayman Brac.

Some improvement in the public health was effected following the appointment in 1942 of a Sanitary Inspector, a Caymanian who received his training in Jamacia. In 1944 a fully-qualified Government Nurse was added to the staff and arrangements made for the training of five Caymanian nurses at the Public Hospital in Jamaica.

In an effort to improve the Educational facilities in the Dependency several senior students were selected to take courses at Training Colleges at Kingston, Jamaica.

During the War the increased demand for Turtle and Straw Rope resulted in a corresponding rise in the prices of these commodities. Straw rope, which is made from the "tops" of the Thatch Palm, mainly by women and entirely by hand, is in great demand by the fishermen of Jamacia, for it is claimed that this rope is more durable than others in sea-water. The shipbuilding industry, unfortunately,

suffered greatly during the War years through shortage of material. Only three vessels, including two trawlers for the British Admiralty, were constructed in the Dependency during this period.

The Financial position of the Dependency at the end of the year 1945-46 was satisfactory. A Reserve Fund of £25,000 and a Hurricane Fund of £2,000 had been built up and there was, in addition, an accumulated Surplus of £11,000. A pleasing feature, too, was the increased use being made of the Government Savings Bank, for whereas deposits in 1937 totalled £5,500 the figure at the end of 1945 was nearing the £100,000 mark. These figures not only show the thriftiness of the people but confirm the fact that there has been a very considerable increase in the wealth of the Dependency.

Taxation has changed little during the past 10 years, the only increases being the imposition of a Package Tax in 1940 and, in the following year, the addition of the amount of Insurance and Freight to that of the Cost of goods for purposes of the assessment of Customs Import Duty.

# PART I

## Cayman Islands Sketch Plan of Development and Welfare

THE Draft 10-Year Sketch Plan of Development and Welfare for the Cayman Islands was presented to the Legislative Assembly of Justices of the Peace and Vestrymen in June, 1946, and the Plan as accepted by the Assembly was submitted to the Government of Jamaica for covering approval before submission to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies. The Plan provided for supplementing the inadequate Medical and Public Health facilities in the Dependency by the construction at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, of a Hospital with all necessary subsidiary buildings, and the employment of an additional Medical Officer, a Dispenser, Nurses and Hospital Staff. The establishment of Health Centres throughout the Islands is included. As regards Education provisions has been made for a Senior or Secondary School at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and for the improvement of the existing Primary Schools in accommodation, staff and equipment throughout the Dependency.

Improvements in Agriculture and Social Welfare are also envisaged.

### MEDICAL

In June the Legislative Assembly unanimously approved of the proposal that the Cayman Islands Medical Service be administered by the Director of Medical Services in Jamaica. Following this the Jamaica House of Representatives approved the recommendation made by the Governor that an additional Doctor for the Cayman Islands be provided by the secondment to the Dependency of a Medical Officer of the Jamaica Service and further, that half of the emoluments of the Officer be the responsibility of the Government of Jamaica.

During the year the Cayman Islands students undergoing training in Dispensing and Nursing continued their courses at the Public Hospital, Jamaica. The expenditure on the training of these students is covered by grants made under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

Some improvement in sanitation was achieved during the year but there is still considerable room for improvement. The special meetings held throughout Grand Cayman during Health Week in November were well attended and great interest shown by the public in the lectures. The general improvement mentioned above was reflected in the reduction in the number of flies but the mosquitoes were as plentiful as ever from August onwards.

### EDUCATION

In order to improve the general standard of education the Dependency continues to have selected young Caymanian men and women trained at Colleges in Jamaica for three years prior to being appointed as teachers in the Government primary schools. During 1946 there were two men and one woman undergoing such training. In addition, one male teacher was receiving, under Colonial Development and Welfare auspices, advanced training. Arrangements have been made for this trainee to proceed to the United Kingdom early in 1947 to complete his studies.

### AGRICULTURE

There was no improvement noticeable in this industry during the year and production continued to fall short of demand though assisted by excellent weather conditions throughout the year. In November an Officer of the Jamaica Department of Agriculture visited the Dependency primarily to carry out an inspection of the bee industry. In addition this Officer gave farmers much useful advice and showed the necessity for the appointment of a whole-time Agricultural Inspector. There is no doubt that considerably more can be produced in the Cayman Islands than is being produced.

### SOCIAL SERVICES

The British Council presented the Dependency with a large number of books for its Library and with a Cinematograph Projector. Films, also provided on loan by the Council, are shown in the Town Hall, Georgetown and have been greatly welcomed by the people who lack recreational amenities. During the year the Presbyterian Church in Grand Cayman arranged to have a young woman from the Cayman Islands trained in Jamaica in straw and sisal work. On completion of the course in December the trainee returned to the Dependency and will hold classes of instruction in handicrafts in the first place. Later it is hoped she will act as Instructor to the School-children of the Dependency.

### TRANSPORTATION

In November the small Motor Schooner the "cimboco" was replaced on the Jamaica Cayman Islands run by the S/S "black bear" (now renamed the "caymania") a vessel of 730 tons. During the same month the Jamaica Air Transport Company Ltd., inaugurated a weekly sea-plane service between Jamaica and Grand Cayman. Later it is hoped to include Cayman Brac in its itinerary.

The Roads continued in fair condition, particularly taking into consideration the fact that no mechanical road-building equipment is available. An additional grant of £1,143 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds was approved by the Secretary of State to enable the road to the Town Hall at West Bay, Grand Cayman, to be completed and a feeder road to a settlement in the same District to be constructed. The work on the former was nearing completion at the end of the year.

### STRAW ROPE INDUSTRY

The production of straw rope was somewhat below the average during the first nine months of 1946 but increased considerably during the last quarter on the price being advanced from 60/- to 80/- per 1,000 fathoms. There was also some improvement in the quality of the rope, which it is hoped to maintain. This industry continues to be the main "stand-by" of the poorer classes.

### BOATBUILDING

Unfortunately, the shortage of materials prevented a revival of this industry during 1946, there being only one vessel of 162 tons built and launched during the year.

### FISHING

The turtle fishing industry continued to be very remunerative but no advance was made in scale-fishing. In this industry, too, the demand far exceeds the supply and the shortage of fish, meat, milk and green vegetables all contribute to the malnutrition of the inhabitants of these Islands.

### SEAMEN

Seamen of the Cayman Islands continue to enjoy an excellent reputation and during the year a number were specially recruited for service on ships of the Lago Oil and Transport Co. Ltd., of Aruba and of the Booth American Line. A number of the men were ex-servicemen who had a short time before been demobilised from the Armed Forces.

### UNITED STATES COAST GUARD BASE

The United States Base, opened in 1942, from which most of the personnel had been withdrawn since the cessation of hostilities in 1945, was permanently closed in December by the withdrawal of the Meteorological Unit. A number of buildings and some equipment was handed over to the Cayman Islands Government for safe custody pending final disposal arrangements being made.

### VISIT OF WARSHIPS

During the year the H.M.S. "Ballinderry" and the Cuban Gunboat "Patria" paid official visits to the Dependency.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Major Ivor O. Smith arrived at Grand Cayman from British Guiana on the 26th of May to assume duty as Commissioner of the Cayman Islands.

## PART II

### Chapter 1: Population

THE earliest record relates to the year 1774 when the total population was estimated at 176 persons. By the year 1802, when the census was taken by an officer specially deputed for that purpose by the Governor of Jamaica, the total had risen to 933 of whom 545 were slaves. The figures for 1891, 1911, 1921 and 1934 were 4,322, 5,564, 5,253 and 6,009 respectively.

A census of Jamaica and its Dependencies financed by His Majesty's Government and directed by Mr. A. J. Pelletier, F.S.S., Chief of Census, Canadian Bureau of Statistics, was taken in January, 1943. This, in addition to population embraced both housing and agriculture. The method employed on this occasion provided for the enumeration of the considerable number of men absent at sea and abroad.

The census of 1943 showed the population of the Dependency to be 6,670, which is the highest in its history, and which represents an increase of 11 per cent over the figure recorded in 1934. The detailed figures are as follows :

1943	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Grand Cayman	2,322	2,989	5,311
Cayman Brac	604	692	1,296
Little Cayman	29	34	63
	2,955	3,715	6,670

Of a total population of 6,670, roughly classified according to racial origin, 1,052 are of African, 3,518 of mixed, and 2,100 of European descent.

The latest census revealed the number of males per 100 females to be 80, as against 70 in 1934 and 73 in 1921. On both the latter occasions, however, absent males were not enumerated.

The birth and death rates per 1,000 population and the infantile mortality rate per 1,000 births during the years 1943-46 were as follows :

	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality</i>
1943	25.2	10.5	36
1944	21.3	9.6	49
1945	17.59	14.0	14
1946	17.58	6.62	33

The migration balances during the period 1943-46 were :

	<i>Inward</i>	<i>Outward</i>	<i>Plus or Minus</i>
1943	327	395	—68
1944	769	852	—83
1945	735	698	+37
1946	872	754	+118

## Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages, Labour Organisations

THERE is no Labour Organisation in the Dependency and no statistics other than those prepared in connection with the 1943 Census are available. However, as there has been little change since then, the following figures are indicative of the present position :

<i>Industry Group</i>		<i>Gainfully occupied Population</i>		
		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Agriculture</i>	..	..	264	24 288
<i>Fishing</i>	..	..	63	— 63

### *Manufacturing :*

(Foreman, Bakers, Blacksmiths, Boot and Shoe repairers, Cabinet makers, Dressmakers, Tailors, Mechanics, Sawyers, etc.)	..	..	51	390	441
<i>Construction</i>	..	..	127	—	127

### *Transportation and Communication :*

(Seamen, Radio Operator, Captains, Mates, Engineers, Telephone Operators, Truck Drivers, etc.)	..	..	678	—	678
<i>Trade :</i>					

(Owners, Managers, Agents, Brokers, Store Clerks, etc.)	..	71	54	125
<i>Service :</i>				

#### *(a) Professional*

(Chemists, Physicians, Dentists, Nurses, Teachers, Engineers, Clergymen, etc.)	..	17	40	57
<i>(b) Public</i>				

(Government Officers, Policemen, Postmistresses, and Postal Carriers, etc.)	..	11	1	12
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(c) *Personal*

(Barbers, Hairdressers, Bar- keepers, Cleaners, Cooks, Domestic Servants, Laun- dresses, etc.)	..	..	56	421	477
(d) <i>Clerical</i>	..	..	14	7	21
(e) <i>Labourers</i>	..	..	236	6	242
All occupations	..		1,588	943	2,531

*Rates of Pay*

As will be seen from the above a large number of the men of the Cayman Islands between the ages of 20 and 50 are serving as seamen in various capacities on vessels plying all over the world, receiving wages ranging from £14 to £28 per month. Labourers are paid at the rate of from 6/- to 8/- per day, stevedores at 1/- an hour, shipwrights from 16/- to 25/-, carpenters from 12/- to 20/- and painters from 10/- to 16/- per day. Female shop assistants are paid on an average of £4 per month and domestic servants from 25/- to 50/- per month with partial board.

In the Straw Rope industry women supply the greater part of the labour and their earnings average about 10/- a week.

In most industries and trades there is a 40-hour working week, the exception being Shop Assistants and Store Clerks, who are called on to work a 45-hour week.

*Cost of Living*

The staple diet of the inhabitants is flour or corn meal, supplemented by meat (fresh or salt), fish (fresh or salt) and locally-grown ground provisions. The controlled prices of the following commodities at the end of 1946 were :—Flour, 4d. to 5d. per lb., according to quality ; Corn Meal, 3d. to 5d. per lb. ; Sugar, 4d. per lb. ; Fresh Beef, 9d. per lb. ; Fresh Pork, 10½d. per lb. ; Salt Beef, 1/11d. per lb. ; Salt Pork, 1/4d. per lb. ; Fresh Fish, 6d. per lb. ; Salt Fish, 1/- to 1/6d. per lb. ; Beans, 1/- to 1/2d. per lb. ; Rice 7½d. to 1/- per lb. ; Kerosene 1/9d. per gallon ; Matches, 1d. per box ; Tobacco leaf, 4/6d. per lb. ; and Cigarettes, 7½d. per packet of 20.

A comparison of the 1939 prices of a number of items of food, clothing and hardware with those now obtained indicates that prices have risen over 200% but without a survey being carried out it is impossible to make any accurate statement as to the increase in the cost of living.

The cost of running a house for a European married couple, including messing, servants' wages, laundry, rent of furnished house (£5), lighting (15/-), and a moderate amount of entertaining would be in the vicinity of £50 per month. The Hotel rate is 15/- and Guest Houses 12/- a day.

*Labour Legislation*

The Trade Union Law of 1942 provided for the formation, registration rights, powers and control of trade unions, but up to the end of 1946 no Trade Union had been registered. In December, 1946, the Minimum Wage Law was passed. This measure gives powers to fix a minimum wage for employees where the wages paid in any particular occupation or trade are unreasonably low. No orders have as yet been made under this Law.

There is no factory legislation or legislative provision for sickness, old age, etc., but steps are being taken to introduce a Workmen's Compensation Act at an early date.

## Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

### REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

THE following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Dependency for the last eight years :

	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
	£	£
1938	13,253	11,859
1939	7,555	14,821
1940	7,988	10,354
1941	12,803	11,924
1942—43	18,925	12,703
1943—44	27,932	22,137
1944—45	21,155	28,533 †
1945—46	29,380	23,106

† Includes £8,000 placed to Reserve Funds.

It should be noted that at the end of 1941 the financial year was altered so as to commence on the 1st April and end on the 31st March.

### PUBLIC DEBT

The following table shows the position in regard to loans on the 31st December, 1946 :

<i>Designation and Amount of Loan</i>	<i>Baience outstanding on 31st December, 1946</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Hurricane Loan, 1933. £3,660 3%	£2,276	Repayable to Government of Jamaica in 20 years from 1st April, 1938.
Public Works Loan, 1938. £6,500 3½%	£4,712	Repayable to Government of Jamaica in 20 years from 1st April, 1940.

The former loan was incurred to repair the damage caused by the hurricane of 1932 and the latter to erect public buildings.

BALANCE SHEET (1945-46)

<i>Liabilities</i>	£	<i>Assets</i>	£
Deposits ..	1,085	Advances ..	6,720
Savings Bank ..	15,414	Suspense ..	2,314
Money Order Account ..	1,146	Postal Order Account	272
	<hr/>	Cash ..	7,861
	17,645	Remittances in Transit	694
Balance ..	11,079	Jamaica Treasury ..	10,863
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£28,724		£28,724

RESERVE FUNDS

On the 31st March, 1946, the Reserve Fund of the Dependency stood at £25,850. On the same date, the Hurricane Fund, which is designed to relieve distress occasioned by hurricanes, stood at £2,065. These sums are invested in British, Dominion and Colonial securities held by the Crown Agents for the Colonies, all interest accruing therefrom being re-invested.

TAXATION

The two main sources of revenue are import duties and the sale of stamps, the yields during the past 4 years having been as follows :

*Import Duties.*      *Sale of Stamps.*

	£	£
1942-43	8,892	6,316
1943-44	9,725	13,892
1944-45	11,591	5,375
1945-46	12,997	11,793

There is a tax on vehicles, bicycles, cattle, horses, dogs, firearms, boats, etc., and light dues and warehouse fees. There is no Income Tax Land Tax or Estate Duty.

CUSTOMS TARIFF

Under the Customs Tariff Law the majority of articles imported into the Dependency are subject to an *ad valorem* duty of 12½%, the cost plus insurance and freight being taken into account at arriving at the value of the dutiable articles. There is a Preferential and a General Tariff for some articles such as aerated waters, beer, butter, margarine, bicycles, cement, hardware, spirits, wines, tea and tobacco. Duty under the Preferential Tariff is collectable in the main at the rate of 12½% *ad valorem* while under the General Tariff at the rate of 20% *ad valorem*. The Second Schedule of the Tariff Law, 1935, exempts a number of articles, e.g., Articles for the Navy, Army and Air Force or for the Commissioner, artificial limbs, advertising material, bullion and coin, wire screen cloth and mosquito-netting, etc.

## EXCISE AND STAMP DUTIES

There is no Excise Duty. Under Law 9 of 1906, Stamp Duty ranging from 1d. to £2 2s. is payable on the several instruments and documents mentioned in the Schedule to the Law. These instruments include Agreements, Bills of Exchange, Conveyances, Deeds, Leases, Mortgages, Passports and Receipts for money paid.

## POLL TAX

A Personal Tax of 8/- a year is imposed on every male person between the ages of 18 years and 60 years.

## Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

## COIN

BRITISH silver and copper together with Jamaica coins—penny, half-penny and farthing—are in circulation. Silver coins are legal tender up to forty shillings and copper coins up to one shilling.

## NOTES

Bank of England notes of the denominations of £1 and 10/- are normally in circulation together with Government of Jamaica notes of the denominations of £5, £1, 10/- and 5/-. A decreasing number of notes issued by private banks is also in circulation. Currency notes and bank notes are unlimited legal tender.

## BANKING

No banking facilities are available save those afforded by the Government Savings Bank, which conducts business at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac. The bank was established in 1908, the Cayman Brac branch being opened in 1934.

At the end of 1941 there were 478 open accounts and the amount, inclusive of interest, standing to the credit of depositors was £15,144. The corresponding figures, at the end of March, 1946, were 1,353 and £115,681 respectively.

The steady growth of business done by the bank during recent years is due to a great extent to the increased remittances received from Caymanians engaged in various capacities overseas and the facilities of the bank are year by year being more greatly utilised.

## Chapter 5: Commerce

THE prosperity of the Dependency rests in no small measure on the remittances made by its menfolk serving abroad in various, but principally seafaring, capacities. Other prime factors are the earnings of schooners engaged in the Turtle and Shark fisheries, and in the Caribbean Gulf carrying trade. During the year the construction of one vessel of approximately 162 tons for use in the Caribbean Gulf trade was completed at Cayman Brac.

Additional contributions arise from periodic construction of schooners and other vessels for overseas delivery.

#### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Practically everything required in the Islands has to be imported, even the supply of fresh fish and meat and locally-grown ground provisions being far short of the demand. The principal items imported are flour, sugar, rice, tinned goods of every description, salted fish and meat, corn meal, lard and margarine, coffee, soap, tobacco and cigarettes, spirits, oils, cement, clothing and hardware.

As regards exports the principal items are thatch rope, live Green Turtle and the shell of the Hawksbill turtle. Though the quality of thatch rope produced and exported has remained fairly constant for a number of years the price per 1,000 fathoms under Government control has advanced from 30/- in 1941 to 100/- in 1946 with the result that the value of the export has risen from £2,185 in 1941 to £5,513 for the year under review.

Turtle, too, of late years has risen in value as an export as shown hereunder :

	Green Turtle		Turtle Shell	
	Number	Value	Lbs.	Value
1943	1,351	2,431	5,616	2,810
1944	1,528	3,057	5,750	5,176
1945	3,391	12,716	5,530	5,870
1946	3,898	13,643	4,213	3,100

## Chapter 6: Production

#### AGRICULTURE

As no topographical survey of the Islands has been made it is difficult to estimate even approximately the total area of cultivable land. The pockets of loam which are found amongst the older limestone are of considerable fertility but the sandy wastes along the coastline are of no agricultural value. In addition, because of the outcrop of decaying coral-limestone it is doubtful whether there is an acre of land which could be ploughed without fatal results to the plough. Many of the Islanders are keen agriculturalists, taking particular pride in their cattle and pastures. Though the Islands are capable of producing a wide range of tropical fruits and vegetables, the total yield is, both in volume and variety, considerably below what it might be if agriculture were more diligently pursued. Insufficient produce is grown for local consumption, coconuts, potatoes, beans, ground nuts and fruit being imported. It should, however, be stated that the Islands lack agricultural guidance and, in addition, in certain areas of Grand Cayman the Red Agouti, locally called "rabbit", tends to discourage the agriculturalist by its depredations. Efforts are being made to eliminate this pest by means of a cash bonus on every head secured.

## LIVESTOCK

The figures of livestock, as disclosed by the census of 1943, are as follows :

Horses	79
Donkeys	101
Cattle	1,858
Goats	118
Poultry	11,135
Pigs	397

The common pasturage for cattle is guinea grass which grows abundantly. Most of the cattle are owned by the larger owners while on the other hand pigs are for the most part owned by the poorer classes. The poultry which is raised consists almost entirely of fowls, the number of turkeys and ducks being negligible.

## MINERALS

Phosphatic deposits were, from 1884 to 1890, worked commercially in all three islands, but they were reported to be low grade and of small extent. A geological survey of the islands was made in 1924 without, however, revealing any mineral deposits of commercial value.

## FORESTRY

The principal forest products are mahogany and the thatch palm. The latter sustains the thatch rope industry, the Dependency's principal peasant industry, on which many of the poorest class are, in large measure, dependent for a living. The entire output of this commodity is absorbed by the Jamaica fishing industry. Mahogany is chiefly used in the building of schooners, the Dependency's most notable industry. It is also to be seen in public buildings and private houses. The export of mahogany from the Dependency has been controlled, under emergency powers, since 1942.

It is not possible to say with any degree of accuracy what the Dependency's resources are in these two products, as no land survey of the Dependency has ever been made. In December, 1945, the Conservator of Forests, Jamaica, and the Curator of the Museum of that Island carried out a forestry survey of the Cayman Islands and in their report recommended that the general forest policy should be :—

- (1) To conserve and develop the production of native timbers for ship building, house construction and other purposes, and to limit wasteful production methods.
- (2) To conserve thatch palms for rope-making and other purposes.
- (3) To develop minor industries, such as furniture-making and extension of the uses of thatch.

It was further recommended that the first necessity was the carrying out of an aerial survey and a cadastral survey, after which certain areas of unclaimed land, incapable of agricultural or other development would be declared Forest Reserves and managed with a view to timber, fuel and thatch production. It was suggested that legislation should

be introduced (a) for the protection of mahogany from fire, regulating its cutting and the purposes for which it was to be used ; and (b) prohibiting or regulating the destruction of the thatch palm. The report stated that :—

“Given adequate protection there is every reason to believe that natural regeneration of Mahogany and Thatch Palm will be sufficient to meet requirements on Grand Cayman. At a later date, it might be desirable to make studies in regeneration and growth of Mahogany and Thatch Palm at the Agricultural Station, for which we understand proposals are being made. If Forest Reserves are established it will obviously be desirable to draw up plans for their management.”

#### FISHERIES

Fishing, both coastwise and deep-sea, constitutes one of the main industries of the Dependency. The deep-sea fisheries, operated by the wealthier merchants or schooner owners, cover turtle (Green and Hawksbill) and shark, which are taken on the banks, shoals and cays that lie off the coasts of Honduras and Nicaragua. Green turtle and shark products are exported to the United States and the shell of the Hawksbill turtle to the United Kingdom. Lobster caught off the banks find a ready market in the Canal Zone. The ship's company works on the share principle. The owner of the vessel supplies the material for making nets, buoys, etc. The crew prepare the nets and buoys and make ready the vessel for sea. From the gross proceeds of the catch a sum in respect of Royalty payable to the Nicaraguan Government is deducted. The balance is divided between the crew's share and the owner's share, from the former being deducted the cost of stores supplied by the owner prior to sailing. Coastwise fishing is carried out by the small fishermen working in pairs. Their catch, which includes lobster, has a ready sale and demand far exceeds supply.

In a Report on the Fisheries of the Cayman Islands by Dr. Ernest F. Thompson, M.Sc. (N.Z.), Ph.D. (Cantab.), recently published under the auspices of the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies, the development of fishing as a new industry was recommended.

Dr. Thompson stated that :

“The only other new industry which seems possible is fishing for export. A very small amount for export could be taken locally, but there is a far greater potential supply. The Cayman Islands are fitted by geographical position and seafaring tradition to exploit the fisheries' resources of the Rosaline Bank, Mosquito Cays Seranna and Serannilla Banks, and the mass of small cays and islands in this region. From both theoretical reasoning and exhaustive information from practical fishermen, it seems certain that these areas represent the chief potential source of fish within reach of Jamaica. At present these resources are not fished at all or only to a very limited extent. Fish from this source could be a partial solution to Jamaica's need for reducing her dependence on northern salt fish.

"At the earliest possible date, an extensive survey of these areas should be made and if possible, a Cayman Island crew should be used for the purpose. The survey should be aimed at :

- "(a) Determining the supply of fish available and the best methods and commercial cost of catching it.
- "(b) Investigating the available markets and the best methods of handling for these markets. This would entail experiments in various methods of salting, smoking and refrigeration, and steps should be taken to have Islanders trained in these processes with the least possible delay.

Though the obvious market is Jamaica, Haiti, San Domingo, and Puerto Rico should also be considered.

It is probable that this survey could be combined with the shark fishing survey already recommended. Again, methods and to a large extent regions surveyed for this programme would be of importance to British Honduras. Perhaps here, too, a combination of effort would be possible. These surveys should not be considered as of importance to the Cayman Islands only. They are of great importance to the whole food supply for this part of the Caribbean."

#### BOATBUILDING

During 1946 only one vessel, a motor schooner of 162 tons, was constructed in the Dependency. This industry is carried on at Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac by a number of contractors employing local labour and some local timber. Unfortunately, the shortage of fittings and certain types of lumber restricted production apart from the small craft locally known as 'cat-boats.'

## Chapter 7: Social Services

#### EDUCATION

**PRIMARY** education is free and compulsory for all children between the ages of seven and fourteen and text books and material are supplied free of charge. Control is exercised by a Board of Education which includes one member nominated by the Teachers' Association.

There are 12 primary schools in the Dependency, 8 in Grand Cayman and 4 in Cayman Brac. A small establishment at Little Cayman provides for the few children of school age in that Island, the total population of which is 63.

The teaching staff of the Dependency consists of 7 men and 14 women teachers of whom 3 (1 man and 2 women) are college trained. In addition, the Revenue Officer of Little Cayman performs the duties of teacher to the children of that Island.

There are 3 officially recognised private schools, the largest and best-equipped of which is at Georgetown, Grand Cayman. There are

no secondary, technical or adult evening schools and the highest standard of education reached in the Cayman Islands is the Third-Year Jamaica Local (or Pupil Teachers') Examination.

No routine medical inspection of school children is carried out nor is dental treatment given. It is expected that with the hoped-for increase in the medical establishment it will be possible for such facilities to be afforded.

#### HEALTH

The medical and public health establishment of the Dependency consists of a medical officer, a dispenser, a sanitary inspector and a general and maternity trained nurse. With the exception of the dispenser, who is stationed at Cayman Brac (population 1,450) all are stationed at Grand Cayman. The dispenser also supervises the health of Little Cayman.

There are four Cayman Islands students undergoing training at the Public Hospital, Jamaica, under Colonial Development and Welfare auspices. One male student is taking a course in dispensing and three female students are being trained as general and maternity nurses.

At present there is only a small four-bed hospital at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, but it is hoped that it will be possible to obtain from Jamaica and under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act sufficient financial assistance to enable a hospital with adequate accommodation to be erected and to improve considerably the medical and public health facilities of the Dependency.

#### Total Births and Birth Rates

		Grand Cayman	Lesser Islands	Total
Births	..	102	20	122
Birth-rates per 1,000	..	18.42	14.25	17.58

#### Total Deaths and Death Rates

Deaths	..	40	6	46
Death-rates per 1,000	..	7.22	4.27	6.62

#### Infant Mortality

Live births	..	102	20	122
Death of babies under 1 year of age	..	2	2	4
Infant mortality per 1,000	..	19.6	100	32.78

The main causes of death were :

Senile degeneration of heart muscle	..	8
Senility—old age	..	4
Infestation with round worms and their larvae	..	5
Pneumonia	..	4
Cerebral haemorrhage (due to high blood pressure)	..	4
Cancer	..	4

Of the 40 deaths which occurred in Grand Cayman during the year 19 were those of persons aged 70 years or more.

### *Causes of ill-health*

The Government Medical Officer reported that the main causes of morbidity, i.e., ill-health, were as follows :

#### *Babies*

Gastro-intestinal trouble, caused by improper feeding. Infestation with round worms and their larvae. Cold in the chest, with cough.

#### *Children*

Cough and asthma at night, owing to unventilated bedrooms. Abdominal pain, due to gas caused by much 'windy' food. Infestation with round worms and their larvae resulting in abdominal pain, and, sometimes ascaris pneumonia.

Pneumococcal Pneumonia and bronchitis.

Sores on the lower limbs, owing to scratching mosquito, sand-fly and other insect bites.

Eye-strain, especially in older children from West Bay.

Otitis media, i.e., inflammation of middle ear.

Injuries sustained through falling from trees.

#### *Young Men*

Muscular strain and lumbago.

Injuries.

#### *Middle-aged and Elderly Men and Women*

High blood-pressure.

Arterio-sclerosis.

Rheumatoid conditions, such as rheumatoid arthritis.

Dilation of the heart.

Cancer.

#### *Old Men and Women*

Senile degeneration of the heart-muscle.

High blood-pressure and arterio-sclerosis.

#### *Young and Middle-aged Women*

Sinusitis, otitis media and mastoiditis.

Eye-strain.

Low blood-pressure.

Disordered action of the heart due to gas, due to 'windy' food.

Abdominal pain due to gas due to 'windy' food and constipation.

Lumbago and muscular strain.

Chronic Appendicitis. (But no death from appendicitis has occurred in Grand Cayman from beginning of 1937 till end of 1946).

Uterine retroversion and other misplacements.

Very many of the young and middle-aged women of Grand Cayman, who are accustomed to carry heavy loads on their heads,

and on their backs suspended by bands from their heads, suffered from all the above-mentioned main causes of morbidity in young and middle-aged women, except that some suffered from post-operative adhesions following appendicectomy, instead of suffering from chronic appendicitis. On ceasing for a time to do such heavy work, their health improved very considerably, but after resuming the doing of heavy work their ailments became troublesome again. Only a change in their working habits could effect lasting improvement in their health.

An outbreak of diphtheria occurred at Grand Cayman in May and all children between the ages of 6 months and 15 years were given protective inoculation. There was only 1 death from this cause and this was the first case reported and in 11 other cases diagnosed as diphtheria the children recovered within a few days of diphtheria antitoxin being administered.

#### *Sanitation*

The sanitation of the Dependency is far from satisfactory. Many of the households are without latrines and many of those that exist are in an insanitary condition. Many households are also without cisterns for drinking water and without screens for their windows and door. This lack of screens results in poor ventilation as practically throughout the year all doors and windows have to be kept fast shut because of the presence of mosquitoes.

#### **HOUSING**

The Dependency as a whole is well housed, wooden dwellings predominating. The houses are generally built on hard-wood piles which raise them a couple of feet above ground level. They are roofed with either wooden tiles or corrugated iron, the roof serving as a catchment for rain water which is stored in cement tanks or galvanized drums. For the kitchen and the latrine, which are, for the most part, erected a short distance away from the main building, roofs made of the thatch palm are often preferred in the out-of-town districts.

Many of these wooden dwellings are attractively designed and have around them a generous plot of ground, which is generally and noticeably so in the case of the West Bay settlement, laid out with fruit trees, flowering shrubs and flowers. Save in one or two instance in Georgetown, there is no overcrowding. In the Eastern Districts the typically local style of houses framed in local hardwoods and walled with lime mortar and wattles are seen. Practically every house is owned by the occupier. The principal improvement required is in sanitary arrangements and the local Board of Health is carrying out a drive to improve the existing conditions (as stated earlier in this report). The census of 1943 covered in detail the question of housing and the figures then recorded revealed that 1,281 houses accommodated on an average 5.2 persons per house as compared with the 1934 census figures of 1,246 houses with an average of 4.69 persons per house.

There are no Building Societies in the Dependency and there is no tax on house property.

## SOCIAL WELFARE

The Dependency does not maintain either a poor house or a mental hospital. Poor relief is administered through a society of voluntary workers which receives an annual grant from public funds. Mental cases are sent to the Mental Hospital in Jamaica, the cost of their maintenance being met from the funds of the Dependency.

There is a public library and reading-room at Georgetown, which is housed in a commodious and attractive concrete building. An annual grant for its maintenance is made from public funds, the grant being increased during the current year to £100 per annum. There is a small library at West Bay.

The Sea Scouts' and Girl Guides' organizations, which flourished until the outbreak of war, have been dormant for the past six years, owing principally to the pre-occupation of their respective leaders. The Girls' Guildry Movement, sponsored by the Church of Scotland but undenominational in character, was started towards the end of 1946. It caters for girls from the age of 5 years upwards. A Wolf Cub Pack was started in July, 1945, and at the end of 1946 had a membership of 36.

The Islands suffer greatly from the lack of recreational facilities, there being no cultural or sports organizations of any description.

## Chapter 8: Legislation

THE more important legislation passed during the year was :

(a) The Spirit Licence Amendment Law, No. 1 of 1946, which restricted the hours of opening of shops licensed to sell spirituous liquors to 6 hours per diem and increased the annual Licence from £12 to £15. There had been a strong movement in the Dependency to introduce total prohibition but a compromise was made by the reduction of hours during which spirit shops could be opened from 15 to 6 daily.

(b) The Land Acquisition Law, No. 4 of 1946, which made provision for the compulsory acquisition of land in the Cayman Islands required for public purposes.

(c) The Minimum Wage Law, No. 8 of 1946, which gave power to the Governor to fix a minimum wage for employees where the wages paid in any particular occupation or trade were considered to be unreasonably low.

## Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

## JUSTICE

THE Courts of the Dependency are as follows :

- (a) The Grand Court of the Cayman Islands.
- (b) The Quarterly Petty Court.
- (c) The Petty Sessions Court.

(a) *The Grand Court*, constituted by Act 3 of 1889, sections 5 to 8 (Cayman Islands) and Chap. 493 (Jamaica) is presided over by the Commissioner, who is the Judge by virtue of his office as Commissioner (Jamaica Revised Edition, Chap. 491, Section 3). The Court sits twice a year in June and December, and has jurisdiction in Civil and Criminal matters—"A" (1) in civil matters where the amount claimed exceeds £10, whether arising from tort or from contract, or from both; (2) Bankruptcy; (3) Equity; and (4) Probate and Administration.

"B" in Criminal matters as set out in Section 210 of Chap. 493 (J.R.E.), but in cases of Capital Felony, it is provided in Section 5, Chap. 491 (J.R.E.), that it shall not be lawful for the Commissioner to preside at the trial of any case of capital felony, and a Judge from Jamaica is always sent to try these cases. There is a right of Appeal from any judgement, decree or order of the Grand Court to the Supreme Court of Jamaica as set out in section 201 of Chapter 493 and 494, (J.R.E.).

(b) *The Quarterly Petty Court*, constituted by Act 3 of 1889, Section 3, is presided over by two Justices of the Peace and the jurisdiction of this Court extends to actions whether arising from tort or from contract or from both, and trespass to lands, when the debt or damages claimed shall not exceed the sum of £10, and in which there is no question of the title to real estate involved.

Under Section 4 this Court also has the power to try all cases in which disputes have arisen relative to the boundaries of lands or plantations of which it is necessary to have view. Jurisdiction may be exercised by one Justice and a jury of not more than 5 nor less than 3 persons.

(c) *The Petty Sessional Court* is presided over by two Justices of the Peace. This Court deals with minor offences, and Preliminary Examinations in Indictable Offences. Appeals from the Quarterly Petty Court and from the Petty Sessions Court, are provided for in the Cayman Islands Appeal Regulations Law, Law 5 of 1918.

The December Session of the Grand Court was presided over by a Judge sent from Jamaica. In all, six criminal cases, eight civil suits and five appeals were disposed of during the year. Among the Criminal Cases a sentence of 12 months hard labour was imposed for house-breaking and larceny, and 2 cases for warehouse breaking and larceny drew sentences of 2 years and 15 months with hard labour respectively.

#### POLICE

The Police Force consists of one Inspector, two Sergeants (one of whom is stationed at Cayman Brac), one Corporal and six Constables. There are, in addition, four District Constables who function in cases of emergency and who receive a small allowance for their services.

#### PRISONS

There is a small gaol at Georgetown, a concrete building with six

cells opening on to a small courtyard. It is used for prisoners with short sentences and those sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment with hard labour for a term of 6 months or upwards, who are awaiting transfer to the General Penitentiary in Jamaica.

## Chapter 10: Public Utilities

ONLY Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is provided with electricity and this is supplied by a private company, the Cayman Islands Ice and Electricity Co. Power is turned on one hour before sunset and off at midnight. The plant is old and has not been working satisfactorily for some time.

## Chapter 11: Communications

### ROADS

OF the 50 miles of motorable roads in the Dependency, 40 are in Grand Cayman and 10 in Cayman Brac. Little Cayman is served with foot-paths only. In Grand Cayman the principal road, approximately 30 miles in length, closely follows the line of the coast from Boatswain Bay on the north-west, through West Bay, Georgetown and Bodden Town to East End on the south-east coast. This embraces all the larger settlements with the exception of Northside, which is served by a branch road which takes in Old Man Bay and joins the main road on the south coast at Frank Sound.

The roads, which for the most part are surfaced with a mixture of limestone, marl and coral-sand, are not tar-treated. As the Dependency does not possess a mechanical roller the consolidation of the surface of the roads is a manual operation which is performed with rammers made of local hardwood. The country traversed by these roads is uniformly level thus rendering impossible any satisfactory system of drainage. Consequently, considerable damage is done during periods of heavy and persistent rain.

One road approximately three-quarters of a mile in length leading from the coast road to the Town Hall at West Bay was built during 1946.

### *Vehicles*

There are no regular omnibus services in operation, and few omnibuses. A number of vehicles make more or less regular journeys from the country districts in Grand Cayman to the capital, carrying passengers and agricultural produce. A few lorries are employed principally in transporting thatch rope and firewood from the country to Georgetown and conveying stores to the outlying districts. There are 57 privately-owned cars in the Dependency and bicycles are extensively used.

### RAILWAYS, TRAMWAYS

Nil.

### AIR SERVICES

During November the Jamaica Air Transport Company Ltd. inaugurated a seaplane service between Kingston, Jamaica and Georgetown, Grand Cayman. The service is flown weekly and passengers and freight are carried.

### SHIPPING AND STEAMSHIP SERVICES

The total number of merchant vessels which called at the Port of Georgetown, Grand Cayman, during the year was 120, representing a net tonnage of 33,682 tons. The vessels were preponderantly British and locally owned. The Dependency is not served by any steamship line, contact with the outside world being maintained by means of schooners, one or two of which are fitted with auxiliary engines. A locally built, owned and managed motor-schooner of 178 tons gross maintained a three-weekly passenger, mail and cargo service between Grand Cayman, Little Cayman, Cayman Brac and Jamaica until November when it was replaced by a steam vessel of 730 tons. The operating company is subsidised to the extent of £1,200 per annum, which is borne in equal parts by the Governments of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. Other schooners ply fairly frequently, but at irregular intervals, between Jamiaca, the Cayman Islands, British Honduras, Cuba and the Gulf Port of Tampa, Florida.

### POR T FACILITIES, GEORGETOWN

Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is the principal port of the Dependency. The anchorage area, in which there is ample depth of water for ocean-going vessels, is approximately half a mile north to south by a quarter of a mile east to west. Port facilities are poor. Vessels of shallow draught are able to use a small natural wharf of some 75 feet in length alongside which the depth at low water varies from 12 to 8 feet. A small transit shed adjoins the wharf. There is no lightering service in operation and there are no bunkering facilities.

### CABLES, WIRELESS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES

No cable communication exists and there are no inland telegraphs.

There is a wireless station at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, which has a range of 1,000 miles, and a smaller station at Cayman Brac with a range of 150 miles. The latter works (two schedules daily) with Grand Cayman only.

Telephone systems are in operation in both Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac, but there are no private subscribers.

## PART III

### Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

#### GEOGRAPHY

THE Cayman Islands, a Dependency of Jamaica, consist of three islands—Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman—which lie in the Caribbean Sea between  $19^{\circ} 15'$  and  $19^{\circ} 45'$  North Latitude and  $79^{\circ} 44'$  and  $81^{\circ} 27'$  West Longitude. The Islands are projecting peaks of the Cayman Ridge, a range of submarine mountains continuous with the Sierra Maestra Range of Cuba and running west to the Misteriosa Bank in the direction of British Honduras.

Grand Cayman, which is situated about 180 miles west-north-west of the westernmost point of Jamaica, and about 150 miles south of Cuba, is roughly 22 miles long from east to west with a maximum width of about 8 miles. Its most striking topographical feature is the shallow reef-protected harbour of North Sound which is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles long by 6 miles wide and which almost cuts the Island into two parts. The area of Grand Cayman is approximately 76 square miles. The Island is divided into six Districts, viz., Georgetown, West Bay, Prospect, Bodden Town, Northside and East End.

Cayman Brac, which lies 69 miles north-east of Grand Cayman, is the most elevated and the most striking in appearance of the group. It is about 12 miles in length with an average width of a little over a mile and an area of approximately 14 square miles. Cayman Brac is divided into three Districts, viz., Stake Bay, West End and Creek.

Little Cayman, 5 miles to the westward of Cayman Brac, is 10 miles long with a maximum width of 2 miles and an area of about 10 square miles. Little Cayman is divided into two districts, viz., South Town and Jacksons.

In his "Geology of the Cayman Islands," Dr. C. A. Matley D.Sc., F.G.S., describes the Islands as follows: "All the islands are low-lying, and do not attain anywhere a height of more than 60 feet above sea-level, except Cayman Brac, the eastern end of which rises to 140 feet. Viewed from the sea, they have a general resemblance to the flat-topped islands of the Bahama group. They are formed entirely of calcareous rocks, which the present survey has shown to be separable into two formations. An older limestone, which I call the Bluff Limestone, forms the central and larger part of each island; and a younger formation of consolidated coral-sand and marl, with some limestone, which I call the Ironshore Formation, occupies most of the periphery as a low coastal terrace, which never rises to a greater height than 12 to 15 feet above the sea, and generally terminates abruptly inland against raised marine cliffs of the Bluff Limestone. In addition to the above are the recent deposits which, at sea, are living coral-reefs that almost surround the islands of Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, but occur only to a limited extent at the south-west of Cayman Brac and, ashore, consist of blown coral-sand and storm-beaches of coral shingle piled up by winds, storms, and hurricanes on the seaward side of the coastal platform. All the islands are entirely

devoid of streams, owing to the porosity of the limestones, and even dry valleys are absent."

Some 10 miles west of Grand Cayman is an area of shoal water known as the Cayman Bank, which is 5 miles long and about half-a-mile wide, with depths of 15 to 20 fathoms. Its platform-like surface is surrounded on all sides by steep slopes.

South of the Cayman group, at distances varying from 25 to 50 miles, lies the Bartlett Deep which, some 50 to 90 miles wide, extends in an east-and-west direction from the Gulf of Honduras to Western Haiti. Ten soundings of over 3,000 fathoms' depth have been made in it, the sounding south of Grand Cayman being 3,428 fathoms.

#### CLIMATE

The climate of the Cayman Islands is for the greater part of the year excellent as, lying in the latitude of the trade winds, there are few days of calm and the north-east breezes temper even the hottest days. Only when the wind veers to the south-east or south can the temperature be termed oppressive.

The seasons are fairly well defined. The period May to October is the hot season, when the temperature ranges from 70° F. to 85° F. and the prevailing winds are from east to south. During this period the rainfall is comparatively heavy and mosquitoes abound. The cool season is from November to April, when the range of temperature is 10° lower and the prevailing winds from north-east to north-west. The best period of the year is from mid-November to mid-March when the weather is cool and there are few mosquitoes.

The total rainfall for the year was 49.95 inches, the average being around 60 inches per annum.

The hurricane season lasts from July to November and the Islands have been hit periodically. The last visitation of this kind, which occurred in October, 1944, is said to have been the worst in living memory.

A meteorological Station was erected at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, in 1935 by the Cuban Department of Agriculture and trained observers from the National Observatory at Havana are stationed there throughout the year. Reports are exchanged twice daily with Havana whence weather information is re-transmitted throughout the Caribbean. The meteorological station at Georgetown, which had been maintained by a Unit of the United States Coast Guard since 1942, was closed down permanently on the 10th of December.

## Chapter 2: History

THE Islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman are said to have been discovered by Columbus in May, 1503, in the course of a voyage from Porto Bello, Panama, to Hispaniola (Haiti and Santo Domingo) and to have been named by him "Las Tortugas" on account of the numbers of marine turtle found around their shores. It is worthy of note that the Islands, bearing no name, appear on the Cantino chart of 1503 in approximately their correct position.

No settlement appears to have been founded, but the Islands

were frequently visited by vessels of all nations for revictualling purposes, the turtles being dried and salted.

An account exists of a visit paid in 1643 by the vessels under the command of Captain William Jackson after his abortive attempt on Jamaica. His description of Grand Cayman reads :

"This place is low land and all rockye, and there be other 2 Islands of ye same name and Quallitie, being by ye Spaniards called Chimanoe, from ye multitude of Alligators here found which are Serpents, if not resembling ye Crocodiles of Egypt Hither doe infinitt numbers of sea tortoises resorte to lay their eggs upon ye Sandy Bay, which at this time (June) swarm so thick. The Island is much frequented by English, Dutch and French ships, that come purposely to salt up ye flesh of these Tortoises."

In 1665 Jamaica was taken and the Cayman Islands became a regular source of food supply for the soldiers and fleets of England cruising the Caribbean. Eventually, by the Treaty of Madrid in 1670, Jamaica was ceded to the British Crown and with it the Cayman Islands. There does not, however, appear to have been any serious settlement until the early part of the eighteenth century although it is apparent that from time to time there were parties of residents chiefly composed of shipwrecked sailors, beach-combers and possibly marooned mariners. The earliest record of a grant of land being made to the first settlers is in 1734, followed by further patents in 1741. The families of "Bodden" and "Foster" are in all probability direct descendants from these patentees, some of whom bore those names.

The origin of the name "Cayman" has been the subject of much speculation, a likely theory being that parties coming ashore from visiting ships in search of turtle named the Islands after the caimens, or alligators, which they found thereon.

## Chapter 3: Administration

### GOVERNMENT

IN the early days of settlement, public affairs were administered by Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The Justices functioned under the direction of one of their number whom they themselves selected and who was styled "Governor." In 1832 the principle of representative government was accepted and elected members known as Vestrymen were added to the administrative body. At the same time the title "Custos" was substituted for that of "Governor."

An Act of Parliament passed in 1863 provided for the ratification of all prior acts of the local body receiving the assent of the Governor of Jamaica. Under this authority, twenty acts, passed between 1832 and 1864, were submitted to the Governor of Jamaica, whose assent thereto was given in 1865. It was further provided in the Act that the Justices and Vestry should continue to exercise legislative powers, their enactments being subject to the assent of the Governor of Jamaica. Under the same authority, the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Dependency, and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed.

In 1898, the powers of the Custos were vested in a Commissioner who combines administrative duties with those of Judge of the Grand Court. He is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The seat of Government is at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, where the Commissioner resides.

The present Assembly of Justices and Vestry consists of the Commissioner as President, twenty-eight Justices of the Peace and twenty-seven Vestrymen.

The Justices of the Peace are commissioned in a General Commission of the Peace by the Governor of Jamaica, the latest Commission being dated the 12th of August, 1946, when 32 Justices of the Peace were appointed.

The election of Vestrymen is held every two years and is governed by an Act of 1832 which provided that "upon requisition of the Custos or Senior Magistrate, the Magistrates in the district shall call the people together and proceed to elect Vestrymen to serve for two years." Whereas women would appear to be included in the electorate, it has long been the practice for male tax-payers only to vote, the latter being defined in Law 5 of 1927 as "male persons between the ages of 18 and 60 years." An election was held in August, 1946.

## Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

IMPERIAL weights and measures are in standard use throughout the Dependency.

## Chapter 5: Newspapers and Periodicals

THERE are no newspapers or periodicals published in the Dependency.

## Chapter 6: Bibliography

*Notes on the History of the Cayman Islands* published in Jamaica by Dr. George S. S. Hirst, M.B., a former Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, contains in Part I a short account of the history of the Islands, in Part II an account of various events and the settlement of the Island from the year 1734 to the year 1800. Part III is the history of the Dependency from the year 1800 to 1850.

*The History of the Cayman Islands* by B. D. Armstrong, was published in 1911 by the Junior Philatelic Society.

*Birds of the Cayman Islands* by R. P. Lowe, was published by Ibis in 1911.

*Cayman Islands* by F. J. Melville (Publisher G. Gibbons) was produced in 1914.

### GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

*Geology of the Cayman Islands* by C. A. Matley (1926).

*The Herpetology of the Cayman Islands* by Chapman Grant (1940).

*Forestry in the Cayman Islands* by Christopher Swabey, B.Sc., and C. Barnard Lewis, B.A.

*The Fisheries of the Cayman Islands* by Ernest F. Thompson, M.Sc., Ph.D. (Cantab.).





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*COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS*

# Cayman Islands

1947



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THE SERIES OF COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS  
which was re-introduced for the year 1946 (after  
suspension in 1940) is being continued with those  
relating to 1947.

It is anticipated that the Colonies and Protectorates  
for which 1947 Reports are being published will, with  
some additions, be the same as for the previous year  
(see list on cover page 3).

COLONIAL OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT ON  
THE CAYMAN ISLANDS  
(Dependency of Jamaica)  
FOR THE YEAR  
1947

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LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1948

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The cover illustration shows  
a Cayman-built Ketch and Cat-boats :  
West Coast, Grand Cayman

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## PART I

### Review of 1947

THE progress made during the past ten years has been maintained and there has been little marked change in the economic position of the Dependency during the year. It is anticipated that revenue for the financial year ending on 31st March, 1948 will again exceed expenditure while the figures relating to imports and exports for the year under review have shown a small increase over those for the year 1946.

Some improvements have been effected to the medical and public health and educational facilities of the Dependency while the initial steps for the resuscitation of one of the former main industries of the Dependency, shipbuilding, have been taken. The possibility of the establishment of a small tourist industry has also been pursued during the year. The potentialities of the excellent five-mile-long beach on the west coast of Grand Cayman and the south coast of Little Cayman have attracted a number of capitalists from outside the Dependency and it is hoped that with the improvement of transportation between the Cayman Islands and the United States and Jamaica some action will be taken in this connection in the near future.

There has also been a limited improvement in the social amenities which have hitherto been sadly lacking in the Dependency.

#### MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The medical service of the Dependency was considerably strengthened during the year. The Cayman Islands Government Medical Officer proceeded on leave prior to retirement on pension in March and was succeeded by a Medical Officer seconded from the Jamaica Medical Service. In July a general and maternity nurse arrived in Grand Cayman on secondment from the Jamaica Medical Service, and in October a Cayman Island nurse, having completed her training in Jamaica under the auspices of Colonial Development and Welfare, assumed duty as general and maternity nurse, Cayman Brac. In addition to the foregoing, a private practitioner took up residence at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, in July, bringing with him a trained nurse, while the retired Government Medical Officer returned to Grand Cayman in December to practice in a private capacity.

*30 Nov 1947 Allen*  
The small four-bed hospital at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, was reopened in April and an out-patients' clinic started. The Government Medical Officer made regular scheduled visits to the outer districts of Grand Cayman during 1947 and arrangements have been made for him to visit the Lesser Islands periodically.

During the year the refractionist at the Public Hospital, Kingston, Jamaica, paid two visits to the Dependency to carry out an optical examination of the children of the Cayman Islands. His services were also available to members of the general public.

In March information was received that the Secretary of State for the Colonies had approved a grant of £20,100 under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act for additional medical facilities for the Dependency. These include the erection of a twenty-bed hospital at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and quarters for the additional medical officer. The services of a dentist are to be secured for the Dependency and provision has been made for the purchase of dental equipment. The detailed plans of the hospital have been prepared in Jamaica and it is anticipated that building will begin in 1948.

Sanitation remains a serious problem, principally because of the unsatisfactory condition or absence of latrines. Every effort is being made to obtain the co-operation of the general public in an effort to rectify this dangerous state of affairs. The special meetings held throughout Grand Cayman during Health Week in October were well attended and great interest shown by the public in the lectures.

#### EDUCATION

The teaching staff of the Government primary schools in the Dependency was strengthened by two male teachers from Jamaica who were stationed in Grand Cayman as headmasters of the Government Schools at Boddentown and Northside, respectively. In addition a Cayman Island trainee completed her three-year course at Shortwood Training College, Jamaica, and assumed duty as headmistress of the Government School at the Creek, Cayman Brac.

The headmaster, who was receiving advanced training in Jamaica under Colonial Development and Welfare auspices, proceeded to the United Kingdom in January 1947 for one year's specialised training. This was made possible through an additional grant approved by the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies and, by the aid of a donation made by a Cayman Islander now resident in Jamaica. The headmaster returned to the Dependency in December.

Two male and one female trainees continued their courses at Mico and Shortwood Training Colleges, respectively. It is anticipated that they will be available for service in the Dependency by the end of 1948.

Parent-Teacher Associations were organised throughout Grand Cayman during the year under review and it is hoped that similar associations will be formed at an early date at Cayman Brac.

Every effort is being made by the Board of Education to encourage organised games and some sports equipment has been obtained and issued to the schools.

#### SOCIAL WELFARE

Government makes an annual grant to provide for the aged, sick and poor and this is administered by the Cayman Islands Friendly Societies of Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac. The societies also collect clothes

for distribution to the needy and augment their funds by periodically holding concerts and other entertainments.

A Boys' Club has been formed at West Bay while the Georgetown Wolf Cub Pack continues to be well supported by the younger boys of the capital. The formation of clubs in the Lesser Islands is being encouraged.

#### AGRICULTURE

There has been no improvement in production during 1947 and the demand for locally grown produce continues to exceed the supply. The Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands in November appointed a Select Committee to make investigations and report on the steps which should be taken to obtain an increase in the production of ground provisions, citrus and other fruits, green vegetables, etc.

#### STRAW ROPE INDUSTRY

Straw rope is made from the "tops", or young shoots, of the silver thatch palm which grows abundantly in the three Islands. Production is carried out mainly by the women and this cottage industry is the main stand-by of the poorer classes. Jamaica has in the past absorbed all the rope produced, and the small industry received a severe set-back during the year, when owing to the shortage of fish-pot wire the demand for the rope by the fishermen of Jamaica was severely curtailed and shipments had to be suspended for a period. Production was reduced and Government was forced to assist by the purchase of a considerable amount of the stock of rope on hand. The position had improved considerably by the close of the year.

#### FISHING

Turtle fishing continued to be remunerative during 1947 and a total of 2,602 green turtle were shipped to the United States from the Cayman Islands. There was some scale-fishing but the demand continues to exceed supply. The shortage of suitable fishing line contributed to limit deep-sea fishing.

#### TRANSPORTATION

Two motor vessels, of 84 tons and 148 tons respectively, were purchased during the year by local merchants for the Grand Cayman—Florida trade.

#### SEAMEN

A number of Cayman Island seamen continued to be employed on North and Central American owned vessels and the remittances made by these men to their families have a considerable effect on the economy of the Dependency. A large number of the seamen recruited in 1946 by the Lago Oil and Transport Company of Aruba, Dutch West Indies, have returned to the Dependency and are now awaiting other employment. Some of these men completed their contracts with the company and are eligible for re-employment.

## UNITED STATES COAST GUARD BASE, GRAND CAYMAN

The buildings and installations at the United States Coast Guard Base at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, from which all personnel had been withdrawn in December 1946, was in August purchased by the Cayman Islands Government. It is anticipated that the buildings will be utilised for the proposed secondary school while some equipment is being retained by Government. Surplus items are being sold at public auction.

## GOVERNOR'S VISIT

In January 1947 the Dependency was visited by a Governor of Jamaica for the first time since the outbreak of hostilities in 1939. His Excellency, Sir John Huggins, K.C.M.G., M.C., arrived at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, in H.M.S. *Porlock Bay* on the morning of 9th January. During his two-day stay in Grand Cayman His Excellency attended public meetings in the town halls of the five principal districts of Grand Cayman. His Excellency also held an informal meeting with the members of the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands.

The Governor, accompanied by the Commissioner, left Grand Cayman on the evening of 10th January for the Lesser Islands and landed at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac, on the morning of 11th January. His Excellency attended a public meeting held in the Government Buildings and then motored the length of the Island before leaving later in the day for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The visit was greatly appreciated by the people of the Cayman Islands, who gave the Governor an enthusiastic welcome.

## PART II

### Chapter 1 : Population

THE earliest record relates to the year 1774 when the total population was estimated at 176 persons. By the year 1802, when the census was taken by an officer specially deputed for that purpose by the Governor of Jamaica, the total had risen to 933, of whom 545 were slaves. The figures for 1891, 1911, 1921, and 1934 were 4,322, 5,564, 5,253 and 6,009, respectively.

A census of Jamaica and its Dependencies financed by His Majesty's Government and directed by Mr. A. J. Pelletier, F.S.S., Chief of Census, Canadian Bureau of Statistics, was taken in January 1943. This, in addition to population, embraced both housing and agriculture. The method employed on this occasion provided for the enumeration of the considerable number of men absent at sea and abroad.

The census of 1943 showed the population of the Dependency to be 6,670, which is the highest in its history, and which represents an increase of 11 per cent. over the figure recorded in 1934. The detailed figures are as follows :

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Grand Cayman	2,322	2,989	5,311
Cayman Brac	604	692	1,296
Little Cayman	29	34	63
	<hr/> 2,955	<hr/> 3,715	<hr/> 6,670

Of a total population of 6,670, roughly classified according to racial origin, 1,052 are of African, 3,518 of mixed, and 2,100 of European descent.

The latest census revealed the number of males per 100 females to be 80, as against 70 in 1934 and 73 in 1921. On both the latter occasions, however, absent males were not taken into account.

The birth- and death-rates per 1,000 population and the infantile mortality rate per 1,000 births during the years 1944-7 were as follows :

	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality</i>
1944	21.3	9.6	49
1945	17.59	14.0	14
1946	17.58	6.62	33
1947	21.43	7.24	19.87

The migration balances during the period 1943-7 were:

	<i>Inward</i>	<i>Outward</i>	<i>Plus or Minus</i>
1943	327	395	- 68
1944	769	852	- 83
1945	735	698	+ 37
1946	872	754	+ 118
1947	1,123	1,370	- 247

## Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages, and Labour Organisation

There is no labour organisation in the Dependency and no statistics are available other than those prepared in connection with the 1943 Census. However, as there has been little change since then, the following figures are indicative of the present position:

<i>Industry Group</i>	<i>Gainfully occupied Population</i>		
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Agriculture</i>	264	24	288
<i>Fishing</i>	63	—	63
<i>Manufacturing</i> (Foremen, bakers, blacksmiths, boot and shoe repairers, cabinet-makers, dress-makers, tailors, mechanics, sawyers, etc.)	51	390	441
<i>Construction</i>	127	—	127
<i>Transportation and Communication</i> (Seamen, radio operators, captains, mates, engineers, telephone operators, truck drivers, etc.)	678	—	678
<i>Trade</i> (Owners, managers, agents, brokers, store clerks, etc.)	71	54	125
<i>Service</i>			
(a) <i>Professional</i> (Chemists, physicians, dentists, nurses, teachers, engineers, clergymen, etc.)	17	40	57
(b) <i>Public</i> (Government officers, policemen, postmistress, and postal carriers, etc.)	11	1	12
(c) <i>Personal</i> (Barbers, hairdressers, barkeepers, cleaners, cooks, domestic servants, laundresses, etc.)	56	421	477
(d) <i>Clerical</i>	14	7	21
(e) <i>Labourers</i>	236	6	242
All Occupations	1,588	943	2,531

## RATES OF PAY

As will be seen from the above, a large number of the men of the Cayman Islands between the ages of 20 and 50 are serving as seamen in various capacities on vessels plying all over the world, receiving wages ranging from £14 to £50 per month. Labourers are paid at the rate of from 7s. to 8s. per day, stevedores at 1s. an hour, shipwrights from 25s. to 35s., carpenters from 20s. to 30s., and painters from 15s. to 20s. per day. Female shop assistants are paid on an average of £4 per month and domestic servants from 30s. to 60s. per month with partial board.

In the straw rope industry women supply the greater part of the labour and their earnings average about 12s. a week.

In most industries and trades there is a 40-hour working week, the exception being shop assistants and store clerks, who are called on to work a 45-hour week.

## COST OF LIVING

The staple diet of the inhabitants is flour or corn meal, supplemented by meat (fresh or salt), fish (fresh or salt) and locally grown ground provisions. The controlled prices of the following commodities at the end of 1947 were: flour, 7d. to 8d. per lb., according to quality; corn meal, 6d. per lb.; sugar, 4d. per lb.; fresh beef, 1s. per lb.; fresh pork, 1s. per lb.; salt beef, 2s. 5d. per lb.; fresh fish, 9d. per lb.; salt fish, 1s. 6d. per lb.; beans, 1s. to 1s. 3d. per lb.; rice, 1s. to 1s. 3d. per lb.; kerosene, 1s. 9d. per gallon; matches, 1d. per box; tobacco leaf, 5s. per lb.; and cigarettes, 9d. per packet of 20.

A comparison of the 1939 prices of a number of items of food, clothing, and hardware with those now obtained indicates that prices have risen over 200 per cent., but without a survey being carried out it is impossible to make any accurate statement as to the increase in the cost of living.

The cost of running a house for a European married couple, including messing, servants' wages, laundry, rent of furnished house (£5), lighting (15s.), and a moderate amount of entertaining, would be in the vicinity of £60 per month. The rate at the hotel is 25s. and at the guest houses 14s. a day.

## LABOUR LEGISLATION

The Trade Union Law of 1942 provided for the formation, registration rights, powers and control of trade unions, but up to the end of 1947 no trade union had been registered. In December 1946 the Minimum Wage Law was passed and Regulations made thereunder were approved by the Governor in July 1947. This Law gives powers to fix a minimum wage for employees where the wages paid in any particular occupation or trade are unreasonably low. No orders have as yet been made under this law.

There is no factory legislation or legislative provision for sickness, old age, etc., but the introduction of a Workmen's Compensation Law is under consideration.

\*

## Chapter 3 : Public Finance and Taxation

The following table gives the revenue and expenditure of the Dependency for the last nine years :

		<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
		£	£
1938.	.	13,253	11,859
1939.	.	7,555	14,821
1940.	.	7,988	10,354
1941.	.	12,803	11,924
1942-3	.	18,925	12,703
1943-4	.	27,932	22,137
1944-5	.	21,155	28,533*
1945-6	.	29,380	23,106
1946-7	.	31,200	28,950.

\* Includes £8,000 placed to Reserve Funds.

It should be noted that at the end of 1941 the financial year was altered so as to commence on 1st April and end on 31st March.

### PUBLIC DEBT

The following table shows the position in regard to loans on 31st December, 1947 :

<i>Designation and Amount of Loan</i>	<i>Balance Outstanding on 31st December, 1947</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Hurricane Loan, 1933 £3,660 3%	£2,098	Repayable to Government of Jamaica in 20 years from 1st April, 1938.
Public Works Loan, 1938 £6,500 3½%	£4,419	Repayable to Government of Jamaica in 20 years, from 1st April, 1940.

The former loan was incurred to repair the damage caused by the hurricane of 1932 and the latter to erect public buildings.

## BALANCE SHEET (1946-7)

LIABILITIES	ASSETS
Deposits . . . . .	£ 9,955
Savings Bank . . . . .	4,825
Money Order Account . . . . .	15,955
	<hr/>
	30,735
Balance . . . . .	13,330
	<hr/>
	£44,065
	<hr/>
	£44,065

## RESERVE FUNDS

On 31st March, 1947 the Reserve Fund of the Dependency stood at £28,315. On the same date, the Hurricane Fund, which is designed to relieve distress occasioned by hurricanes, stood at £2,117. These sums are invested in British, Dominion and Colonial securities held by the Crown Agents for the Colonies, all interest accruing therefrom being re-invested.

During the year under review the Dependency invested the sum of £5,000 from surplus funds in Jamaica Treasury Bills. These Bills are redeemable every three months and bear interest at the rate of 3 per cent.

## TAXATION

The two main sources of revenue are import duties and the sale of stamps, the yields during the past five years having been as follows :

	Import Duties	Sale of Stamps
1942-3 . . . . .	£ 8,892	£ 6,316
1943-4 . . . . .	9,725	13,892
1944-5 . . . . .	11,591	5,375
1945-6 . . . . .	12,997	11,793
1946-7 . . . . .	14,208	13,443

There is a tax on vehicles, bicycles, cattle, horses, dogs, firearms, boats, etc., while light dues and warehouse fees are collectable. There is no income tax, land tax or estate duty.

## CUSTOMS TARIFF

Under the Customs Tariff Law the majority of articles imported into the Dependency are subject to an *ad valorem* duty of 12½ per cent., cost, insurance and freight being taken into account in arriving at the value of the dutiable articles. There is a preferential and a general tariff for some articles such as aerated waters, beer, butter, margarine, bicycles, cement, hardware, spirits, wines, tea and tobacco. Duty under the preferential tariff is collectable in the main at a rate of 12½ per cent. *ad valorem* and

under the general tariff at a rate of 20 per cent. *ad valorem*. The Second Schedule of the Tariff Law, 1935, lists a number of articles which are admitted free of duty, *e.g.*, articles for the Navy, Army and Air Force or for the Commissioner, artificial limbs, advertising material, bullion and coin, wire screen cloth and mosquito netting, etc.

#### EXCISE AND STAMP DUTIES

There is no excise duty. Under Law 9 of 1906 stamp duty ranging from 1d. to £2 2s. is payable on the several instruments and documents mentioned in the Schedule to the Law. These include agreements, bills of exchange, conveyances, deeds, leases, mortgages, passports and receipts for money paid.

#### POLL TAX

A personal tax of 8s. a year is imposed on every male person between the ages of 18 years and 60 years.

## Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

#### CURRENCY

British silver and copper, together with Jamaica coins—penny, half-penny and farthing—are in circulation. Silver coins are legal tender up to forty shillings, and copper coins up to one shilling.

Government of Jamaica notes of the denominations of £5, £1, 10s. and 5s. and a decreasing number of notes issued by private banks are in circulation. Currency notes and bank notes are unlimited legal tender.

#### BANKING

No banking facilities are available save those afforded by the Government Savings Bank which conducts business at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac. The Bank was established in 1908, the branch at Cayman Brac being opened in 1934.

At the end of 1941 there were 478 open accounts and the amount standing to the credit of depositors, inclusive of interest, was £15,155. The corresponding figures at the end of March 1947 were 1,477 and £123,663 respectively. The steady growth of the Bank during recent years is due largely to the increased remittances made by Caymanians overseas to their dependants in the Cayman Islands and also public appreciation of the facilities offered.

## Chapter 5: Commerce

The prosperity of the Dependency depends in no small measure on the remittances made by its menfolk serving abroad in various, but principally seafaring, capacities. Other prime factors are the earnings

of schooners engaged in the turtle and shark fisheries, and in the Caribbean Gulf carrying trade. During the year two motor-vessels, one of 317 and one of 234 tons, were purchased locally for use in the Caribbean Gulf trade.

Additional contributions arise from periodic construction of schooners and other vessels for overseas delivery.

#### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

With few exceptions, all commodities required by the inhabitants of the Islands have to be imported. This is true even of foodstuffs as the supply of fresh fish, meat and locally grown ground provisions is far short of the demand. The principal items imported are flour, sugar, rice, tinned goods of every description, salted fish and meat, corn meal, lard and margarine, coffee, soap, tobacco and cigarettes, spirits, oils, cement, clothing and hardware.

As regards exports, the principal items are thatch rope, live green turtle and the shell of the hawksbill turtle. Though the quantity of thatch rope produced and exported has remained fairly constant for a number of years, the price per 1,000 fathoms has, under Government control, advanced from 30s. in 1941 to 100s. in 1946, remaining at the latter figure throughout 1947. As a result, the value of this export has risen considerably, being £5,205 for the year 1947 as against £2,185 for 1941.

The value of the turtle and turtle shell exported has also risen in recent years as shown hereunder :

	Green Turtle		Turtle Shell	
	Number	Value	Lb.	Value
1943	1,351	2,431	5,616	2,810
1944	1,528	3,057	5,750	5,176
1945	3,391	12,716	5,530	5,870
1946	3,898	13,643	4,213	3,100
1947	2,602	9,107	5,390	3,200

The reduction in the number of green turtle exported during 1947 as compared with the figure for the preceding year resulted from the fact that one Caymanian schooner engaged in the turtling trade conveyed its cargo direct to the United States without calling at the Cayman Islands. The reduction is therefore more apparent than real.

## Chapter 6 : Production

#### AGRICULTURE

As no topographical survey of the islands has ever been made it is difficult to estimate even approximately the total area of cultivable land. The pockets of loam which are found amongst the older limestone are of considerable fertility, but the sandy wastes along the coastline are of

no agricultural value. In addition, because of the outcrop of decaying coral-limestone it is doubtful whether there is an acre of land which could be ploughed without fatal results to the plough. Many of the Islanders are keen agriculturists, taking a particular pride in their cattle and pastures. Though the islands are capable of producing a wide range of tropical fruits and vegetables the total yield is, both in volume and variety, considerably below what it might be if agriculture were more diligently pursued. Insufficient produce is grown for local consumption, coconuts, potatoes, beans, groundnuts and fruit being imported. It should, however, be stated that the islands lack agricultural guidance and, in addition, in certain areas of Grand Cayman the depredations of the Red Agouti, locally called "rabbit", tend to discourage the agriculturist. Efforts are being made to eliminate this pest by means of a cash bonus on every head secured.

#### LIVESTOCK

The figures of livestock, as disclosed by the census of 1943, are as follows :

Horses . . . . .	79
Donkeys . . . . .	101
Cattle . . . . .	1,858
Goats . . . . .	118
Poultry . . . . .	11,135
Pigs . . . . .	397

The common pasturage for cattle is guinea grass, which grows abundantly. Most of the cattle are owned by the larger owners, while on the other hand pigs are for the most part owned by the poorer classes. The poultry which is raised consists almost entirely of fowls, the number of turkeys and ducks being negligible.

#### MINERALS

Phosphatic deposits were, from 1884 to 1890, worked commercially in all three Islands, but they were reported to be low grade and of small extent. A geological survey of the Islands was made in 1924 without revealing any mineral deposits of commercial value.

#### FORESTRY

The principal forest products are mahogany and the thatch palm. The latter sustains the thatch rope industry, the Dependency's principal peasant industry, on which many of the poorest class are in large measure dependent for a living. The entire output of this commodity is absorbed by the Jamaica fishing industry. Mahogany is chiefly used in the building of schooners. It is also to be seen in public buildings and private houses. The export of mahogany from the Dependency has been controlled under emergency powers since 1942.

It is not possible to say with any degree of accuracy what the Dependency's resources are in these two products as no land survey of the Dependency has ever been made. In December 1945 the Conservator of

Forests, Jamaica, and the Curator of the Museum of that Island carried out a forestry survey of the Cayman Islands and in their report recommended that the general forest policy should be

- (1) To conserve and develop the production of native timbers for ship building, house construction and other purposes, and to limit wasteful production methods.
- (2) To conserve thatch palms for rope-making and other purposes.
- (3) To develop minor industries, such as furniture-making, and extend the uses of thatch.

It was further recommended that the first necessity was the carrying out of an aerial survey and a cadastral survey, after which certain areas of unclaimed land, incapable of agricultural or other development, should be declared forest reserves and managed with a view to timber, fuel and thatch production. It was suggested that legislation should be introduced (a) for the protection of mahogany from fire, regulating its cutting and the purposes for which it was to be used, and (b) prohibiting or regulating the destruction of the thatch palm. The report stated that

"Given adequate protection there is every reason to believe that natural regeneration of Mahogany and Thatch Palm will be sufficient to meet requirements on Grand Cayman. At a later date, it might be desirable to make studies in regeneration and growth of Mahogany and Thatch Palm at the Agricultural Station, for which we understand proposals are being made. If Forest Reserves are established it will obviously be desirable to draw up plans for their management."

Action is being taken on these recommendations.

#### FISHERIES

Fishing, both coastwise and deep-sea, constitutes one of the main industries of the Dependency. The deep-sea fisheries, operated by the wealthier merchants or schooner owners, cover turtle (green and hawksbill) and shark which are taken on the banks, shoals and cays that lie off the coasts of Honduras and Nicaragua. Green turtle and shark products are exported to the United States and the shell of the hawksbill turtle to the United Kingdom. Lobster caught off the banks find a ready market in the Canal Zone. The ship's company works on the share principle. The owner of the vessel supplies the material for making nets, buoys, etc., while the crew prepares the nets and buoys and makes ready the vessel for sea. From the gross proceeds of the catch a sum in respect of royalty payable to the Nicaraguan Government is deducted. The balance is divided between the crew's share and the owner's share, from the former being deducted the cost of stores supplied prior to sailing by the owner. Coastwise fishing is carried out by the small fishermen working in pairs. Their catch, which includes lobster, has a ready sale and the demand far exceeds the supply.

In a Report on the Fisheries of the Cayman Islands by Dr. Ernest F. Thompson, M.Sc. (N.Z.), Ph.D. (Cantab.), published in 1946 under Colonial Development and Welfare in the West Indies, the development of the fishing industry was recommended.

Dr. Thompson stated that:

"The only other new industry which seems possible is fishing for export. A very small amount for export could be taken locally, but there is a far greater potential supply. The Cayman Islands are fitted by geographical position and seafaring tradition to exploit the fisheries' resources of the Rosaline Bank, Mosquito Cays, Seranna and Serannilla Banks, and the mass of small cays and islands in this region. From both theoretical reasoning and exhaustive information from practical fishermen, it seems certain that these areas represent the chief potential source of fish within reach of Jamaica. At present these resources are not fished at all or only to a very limited extent. Fish from this source could be a partial solution to Jamaica's need for reducing her dependence on northern salt fish.

"At the earliest possible date, an extensive survey of these areas should be made and if possible a Cayman Island crew should be used for the purpose. The survey should be aimed at

- "(a) Determining the supply of fish available and the best methods and commercial costs of catching it.
- (b) Investigating the available markets and the best methods of handling for these markets. This would entail experiments in various methods of salting, smoking and refrigeration, and steps should be taken to have Islanders trained in these processes with the least possible delay.

Though the obvious market is Jamaica, Haiti, San Domingo, and Puerto Rico should also be considered.

It is probable that this survey could be combined with the shark fishing survey already recommended. Again, methods and to a large extent regions surveyed for this programme would be of importance to British Honduras. Perhaps here too a combination of effort would be possible. These surveys should not be considered as of importance to the Cayman Islands only. They are of great importance to the whole food supply for this part of the Caribbean."

#### BOAT-BUILDING

A motor-vessel of 79 tons, a motor-yacht of 14 tons and a launch for the Customs Department were completed in the Cayman Islands during 1947. In addition two sailing vessels were under construction at the close of the year. This industry, which employs local labour, suffered severely during the war years through the shortage of essential material. Local hard-woods are used for "framing" vessels, but all planking and fittings must be obtained from overseas.

Two new companies were formed in the Dependency during 1947 and it is anticipated that in future there will be a considerable increase in the number of boats built annually.

## Chapter 7 : Social Services

#### EDUCATION

Primary education is free and compulsory for all children between the ages of seven and fourteen and text-books and material are supplied free of charge. Control is exercised by a Board of Education which includes one member nominated by the Teachers' Association.

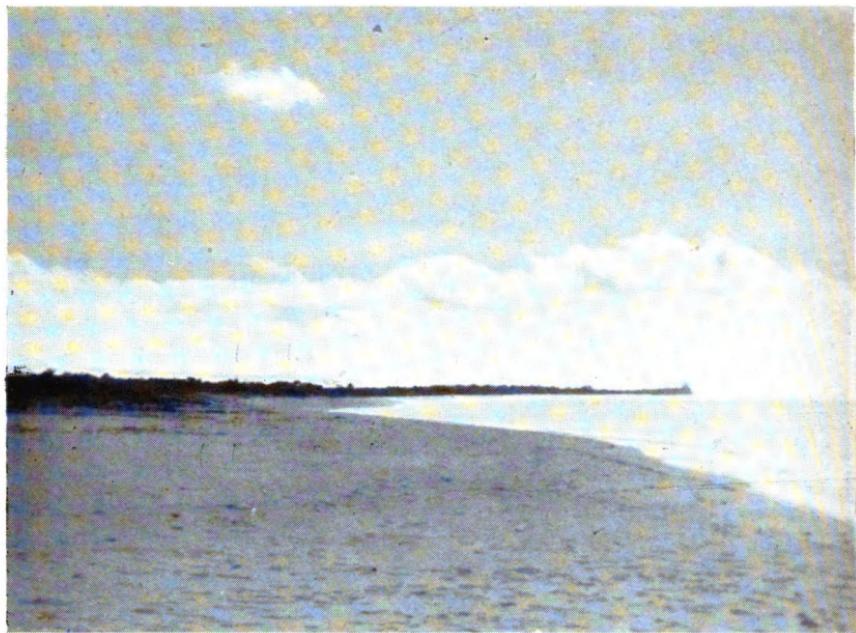
There are 12 primary schools in the Dependency, 8 in Grand Cayman and 4 in Cayman Brac. A small establishment at Little Cayman provides



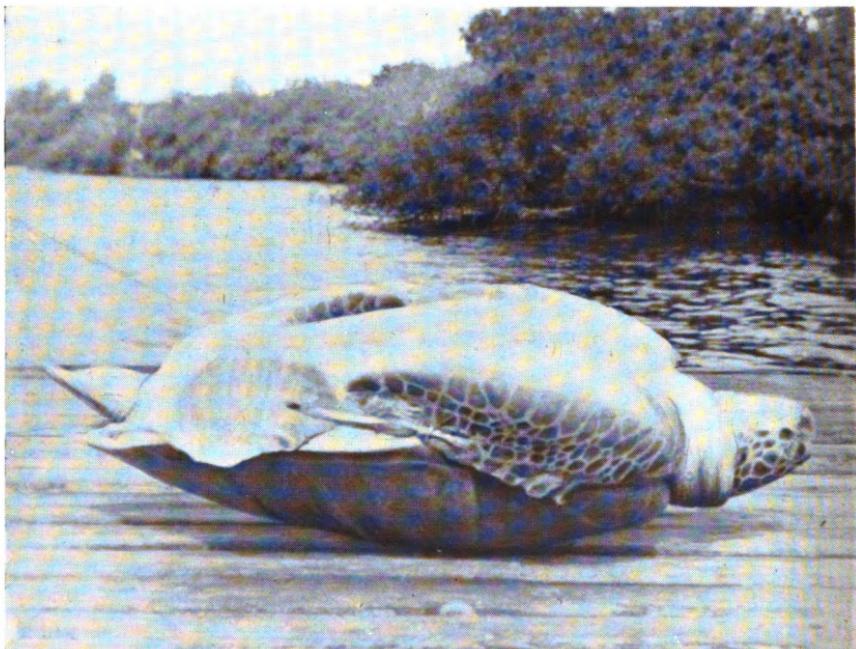
TOWN HALL: WEST BAY, GRAND CAYMAN



SWAMP: GRAND CAYMAN



PART OF GRAND CAYMAN'S FIVE-MILE WESTERN BEACH



A GREEN TURTLE AWAITING SHIPMENT

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for the few children of school age in that Island, the total population of which is now under 60 persons.

The teaching staff of the Dependency consists of 9 men and 12 women teachers, of whom 6 (4 men and 2 women) are certificated. In addition, the Revenue Officer of Little Cayman performs the duties of teacher to the children of that Island.

There are 3 officially recognised private schools, the largest and best-equipped of which is at Georgetown, Grand Cayman. There are no secondary, technical or adult evening schools and the highest standard of education reached in the Cayman Islands is the Third Year Jamaica Local (or Pupil Teachers') Examination.

The Government Medical Officer has commenced routine medical inspection of school children and as soon as the services of a full-time dentist can be secured it is proposed to have periodic dental inspection carried out at all the schools in the Dependency.

#### HEALTH

The Health Staff of the Dependency consists of a Medical Officer, a Dispenser, a Sanitary Inspector and 3 General and Maternity Nurses. The dispenser and one nurse are stationed at Cayman Brac, the remainder at Grand Cayman. There are also two private medical practitioners in Grand Cayman.

Two female students are undergoing training as general and maternity nurses at the Jamaica Public Hospital under Colonial Development and Welfare auspices.

Early in March the Secretary of State for the Colonies approved a grant of £20,100 under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act to enable the medical facilities of the Dependency to be improved. The following are the main provisions :

- (a) the erection of a twenty-bed hospital at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, to serve the whole Dependency;
- (b) the erection of quarters for the additional Medical Officer;
- (c) the salary for a period of 2 years of a dispenser seconded from the Jamaica Medical Service;
- (d) the salary of two nurses seconded from the Jamaica Medical Service for a period of 2 and 4 years respectively;
- (e) the salary of two Caymanian nurses for 4 years;
- (f) the salary of a dentist for 3 years; and
- (g) dental equipment.

The detailed plans for the hospital have been prepared in Jamaica and it is anticipated that building operations will be commenced in 1948.

#### *Hospital and Dispensaries*

The small hospital at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, was re-opened in April 1947, and up to 31st December 113 patients had been admitted. Of the 88 operations performed 70 were major and 18 minor. Approximately 1,800 outpatients were treated at the hospital and at the Government Medical Officer's Office, while in addition the Government Medical

Officer attended to over 200 patients in their homes. More than one-third of the total number of patients were given free attention and many also received free hospital treatment.

The outstations at West Bay, Boddentown, East End, Northside and Savannah were visited regularly by the Government Medical Officer, who treated over 500 patients, no charge being made in nearly 50 per cent. of the cases.

#### *Total Births and Birth-Rates*

	<i>Grand Cayman</i>	<i>Lesser Islands</i>	<i>Total</i>
Births . . . . .	127	24	151
Birth-rate per 1,000 . . . . .	22.60	16.84	21.43

#### *Total Deaths and Death-Rates*

Deaths . . . . .	44	7	51
Death-rate per 1,000 . . . . .	7.83	4.91	7.24

#### *Infant Mortality*

Live Births . . . . .	127	24	151
Death of Babies under 1 year of age . . . . .	1	2	3
Infant mortality per 1,000 . . . . .	7.87	83.33	19.87

#### *Main Causes of Death*

The main causes of death were:

Cerebral Haemorrhage . . . . .	5
Arterio-sclerosis and left heart failure . . . . .	4
Senile Degeneration of Heart Muscle . . . . .	3
Carcinoma of Colon . . . . .	2
Acute Nephritis . . . . .	2

Of the 44 deaths registered in Grand Cayman during 1947, 21 were those of persons aged 70 years or over.

#### *Highest Ages at Death*

	60-70 Years	70-80 Years	80-90 Years	Over 90 Years
Grand Cayman . . . . .	8	11	8	2
Lesser Islands . . . . .	—	—	1	1
Total . . . . .	8	11	9	3

The greatest ages reached were 98 years in Grand Cayman and 91 years in Cayman Brac.

#### *Chief Causes of Ill-Health*

Essential Hypertension. Due to the highly emotional make-up of Caymanians. This condition is extremely common, but in many cases is symptomless.

Headaches and Eye-strain	Due to very excessive glare and exposure to wind. This condition is also very common, particularly in children of school age.
Constipation	Due primarily to the absence of latrines. Very common.
Bachaches	Common. Found in females and due in the majority of cases to unskilled attention at child-birth leading to uterine damage and displacement.
Lower Abdominal Pain.	Commonest in females of child-bearing age, many of whom are unmarried and childless. Causes :— (a) Unskilled attention at child-birth. (b) Psychogenic. (c) Constipation.
Oxygen Deprivation	So-called "night asthma" due to complete absence of ventilation and in some cases overcrowding. Very common.
Round-worm Infestation	Extremely common at all ages. Cases seen vary from age 18 months to 65 years. Chief cause is due to the absence of latrines and the use of the back-yard as a dumping ground for excreta.
Psychoneuroses	Common. Probably due to repeated inter-marriage of population.
Sinusitis	Fairly common. Possible causes : (a) Excessive carbohydrate diet. (b) Exposure to wind and dust. (c) Poor ventilation.
Influenza	Occurs chiefly during the so-called "winter" months January to March.
Colds	Fairly common. East End school had a 66 per cent. incidence during a mild outbreak recently.
Rodent Ulcer	7 cases seen.
Vitamin B Deficiency	Common. Due to excessive carbohydrate diet and absence of meat, essential foods and vegetables.
Pernicious Anaemia	Mild cases are frequently seen.
Iron-deficiency Anaemia	Fairly common. Causes : (a) Round-worm infestation. (b) Dietary deficiency.
Carcinoma of Uterus	5 cases.
Acute Appendicitis	2 cases.

**Venereal Diseases**

Confined chiefly to the coloured population. Only one case was seen among the white members of the community. All patients received free treatment.

Syphilis . . . . .	4 cases.
Gonorrhoea . . . . .	48 cases.
Syphilis and Gonorrhoea . . . . .	3 cases.
Neurosyphilis . . . . .	1 case.
Lymphogranuloma Inguinale . . . . .	1 case.

**Notifiable Diseases**

	<i>Grand Cayman</i>	<i>Lesser Islands</i>
Pneumonia . . . . .	14	1
Influenza . . . . .	29	78

There has been only one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during 1947, but as there is reason to believe that this disease is more prevalent than it appears to be, a survey, including patch tests, is to be undertaken shortly by the Government Medical Officer.

There have been no outbreaks of communicable diseases during the year under review.

**Hygiene and Sanitation**

Sanitation in the Dependency is most unsatisfactory. A large number of households are without latrines and in many cases where latrines do exist they are in a very insanitary condition. The Board of Health, of which the Government Medical Officer and the Sanitary Inspector are members, is making every effort to impress on the people the seriousness of the situation and to obtain their co-operation in effecting the necessary improvement.

Because of the presence of mosquitoes in large numbers during many months of the year the doors and windows of the many unscreened houses have to be kept fast shut, with the resultant complete lack of ventilation.

Sera have been obtained to vaccinate 100 persons and this work is to be continued when a further supply of sera can be secured. Because of the free communication between the Cayman Islands and Central and South America and Cuba it is imperative that the law regarding public vaccination be rigidly enforced.

Anti-V.D. measures have been undertaken, and arrangements are being made for tuberculosis and malarial surveys to be carried out during 1948.

**Maternity and Child Welfare**

Every expectant mother was offered the facility of free examination and advice throughout pregnancy and approximately 40 women took advantage of this service.

All children were given "worm treatment" free. Many children were also given a free issue of cod-liver oil.

## HOUSING

The Dependency as a whole is well housed, wooden dwellings predominating. The houses are generally built on hard-wood piles which raise them a couple of feet above ground level. They are roofed with either wooden tiles or corrugated iron, the roof serving as a catchment for rain water, which is stored in cement tanks or galvanised drums. For the kitchen and the latrine, which are generally erected a short distance away from the main building, roofs made of the thatch palm are often preferred in the out-of-town districts.

Many of these wooden dwellings are attractively designed and have a generous piece of ground around them which is generally, and noticeably so in the case of the West Bay settlement, laid out with fruit trees, flowering shrubs and flowers. In the eastern districts the typically local style of houses framed in local hard-woods and walled with lime mortar and wattles are seen. Practically every house is owned by the occupier. The principal improvement required is in sanitary arrangements.

The census of 1943 covered in detail the question of housing and the figures then recorded revealed that 1,281 houses accommodated on an average 5.2 persons per house as compared with the 1934 census figures of 1,246 houses with an average of 4.69 persons per house.

There are no building societies in the Dependency and there is no tax on house property.

## SOCIAL WELFARE

The Dependency does not maintain either a poor house or a mental hospital. Poor relief is administered through a society of voluntary workers which receives an annual grant from public funds. Mental cases are sent to the Mental Hospital in Jamaica, the cost of their maintenance being met from the funds of the Dependency.

The Public Library at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is housed in a commodious and attractive concrete building. An annual grant for its maintenance is made from public funds. There is also a small library at West Bay, Grand Cayman, and during 1947 boxes of books and magazines were circulated to the principal districts of Grand Cayman and to Cayman Brac.

The Companies of the Girls' Guildry Movement, an undenominational organisation formed in Grand Cayman late in 1946, were very active during 1947, concluding with a Festival of Youth in the month of December.

There is a Wolf Cub Pack with a membership of 37 at Georgetown and a Boys' Club at West Bay, Grand Cayman. The formation of clubs in the Lesser Islands is being encouraged.

The East End Citizens' Association, formed in 1935 by the male residents of East End, purchased with the aid of a loan made by Government a motor truck to be used for the transportation of passengers and produce to and from Georgetown. This association, which is run on co-operative lines, has achieved considerable success in getting the people of the District to work together to their mutual advantage. A

similar organisation, the Cayman Pioneer Club, was formed at Bodden-town in August. Great interest is being manifested by the local inhabitants in this club, which has as its principal objects the encouragement of communal activities, both social and industrial.

With the aid of a grant made under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act battery-operated radio sets with wind-chargers were obtained and installed in three of the districts of Grand Cayman and in South Town, Little Cayman. These sets not only provide entertainment for the people but enable them to keep abreast with the news of the world. Furthermore, during the hurricane season the reports of the progress of storms broadcast from Jamaica and the United States of America can be closely followed, and this is of particular use in the case of the Island of Little Cayman, whose inhabitants are without wireless communication.

Although the people of the Islands are still greatly handicapped by the lack of recreational facilities, some advance in this direction was made during 1947.

## Chapter 8 : Legislation

The more important legislation enacted during the year was as follows :

- (a) The Post Office (Amendment) Law, 1947, No. 2 of 1947, was passed by the Legislative Assembly of Justices of the Peace and Vestrymen of the Cayman Islands on 30th May and assented to by the Governor on 14th June. This law, which repealed and replaced Section 7 of the principal law, The Post Office Law of 1900, empowered the Commissioner, with the advice and consent of the Justices and Vestry and with the approval of the Governor, to fix by order the rates of postage and other charges in respect of all postal articles passing through the Post Office, except postal articles addressed to residents in the Cayman Islands.
- (b) The Medical Evidence Law, 1947, No. 3 of 1947, received the Governor's assent on 22nd September. By this law any certificate or report, if accompanied by a sworn statement by the medical practitioner who signed the certificate or report, was admissible in evidence in any criminal proceedings before Justices of the Peace or at any coroner's inquest without the medical practitioner being called upon to attend and give evidence upon oath.
- (c) The Tonnage Tax Law, 1947, No. 5 of 1947, came into effect as from 1st January, 1948. This law imposed a tonnage tax, computed on the gross weight, on all articles imported into the Cayman Islands for use therein. The several rates to be levied are set out in the First Schedule while the Second Schedule contains the list of articles exempted from the provisions of this law.

## Chapter 9 : Justice, Police, and Prisons

### JUSTICE

The Courts of the Dependency are as follows :

- (i) The Grand Court of the Cayman Islands.
- (ii) The Quarterly Petty Court.
- (iii) The Petty Sessions Court.

(i) *The Grand Court*, constituted by Act 3 of 1889, sections 5 to 8 (Cayman Islands) and Chap. 493 (Jamaica), is presided over by the Commissioner who is the Judge by virtue of his office as Commissioner (Jamaica Laws Revised Edition, Chap. 491, Section 3). The court sits twice a year in June and December, and has jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters as follows :

- (a) In civil matters where the amount claimed exceeds £10 whether arising from tort or from contract, or from both ; bankruptcy ; equity ; and probate and administration ;
- (b) In criminal matters as set out in Section 210 of Chap. 493 (Jamaica Laws Revised Edition).

It is provided by Section 5, Chap. 491 (J.R.E.), that it shall not be lawful for the Commissioner to preside at the trial of any case of capital felony and a Judge from Jamaica is always sent to the Dependency for this purpose.

There is a right of appeal from any judgment, decree or order of the Grand Court to the Supreme Court of Jamaica as set out in section 201 of Chap. 493 and Chap. 494 (J.R.E.).

(ii) *The Quarterly Petty Court*, constituted by Act 3 of 1889, Section 3, is presided over by two Justices of the Peace and the jurisdiction of this court extends to actions, whether arising from tort or from contract or from both, and trespass to lands, when the debt or damages claimed shall not exceed the sum of £10, and in which there is no question of the title to real estate involved. This court under Section 4 also has the power to try all cases in which disputes have arisen relative to the boundaries of lands or plantations of which it is necessary to have view. Jurisdiction may be exercised by one justice and a jury of not more than 5 nor less than 3 persons.

(iii) *The Petty Sessions Court* is presided over by two Justices of the Peace. This court deals with minor offences, and preliminary examinations in indictable offences. Appeals from the Quarterly Petty Court and from the Petty Sessions Court are provided for in the Cayman Islands Appeal Regulations Law, Law 5 of 1918.

The June and December Sessions of the Grand Court were presided over by Judges sent from Jamaica. In all, 7 criminal, 13 civil suits, 1 appeal and 7 judgment summons were disposed of during the year. Among the criminal cases a sentence of 9 months hard labour was imposed for larceny of house lumber, and in four cases of larceny and receiving the accused were bound over for 12 months.

#### POLICE

The Police Force consists of one inspector, two sergeants (one of whom is stationed at Cayman Brac), one corporal and eight constables. There are, in addition, four district constables who function in cases of emergency and who receive a small allowance for their services.

#### PRISONS

There is a small gaol at Georgetown, a concrete building with six cells opening on to a small courtyard. It is used for prisoners with short sentences and those sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment with hard labour for a term of 6 months or upwards who are awaiting transfer to the General Penitentiary in Jamaica.

### Chapter 10 : Public Utilities

Only Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is provided with electricity and this is supplied by a private company, the Cayman Islands Ice and Electricity Co. Power is turned on one hour before sunset and off at midnight. The plant is old and has not been working satisfactorily for some time. It is understood that a new plant capable of providing electricity throughout Grand Cayman is to be installed shortly.

### Chapter 11 : Communications

#### ROADS

Of the 50 miles of motorable roads in the Dependency, 40 are in Grand Cayman and 10 in Cayman Brac. Little Cayman is served by footpaths only. In Grand Cayman, the principal road, approximately 30 miles in length, closely follows the line of the coast from Boatswain Bay on the north-west, through West Bay, Georgetown and Boddentown to East End on the south-east coast. This embraces all the larger settlements with the exception of Northside which is served by a branch road which takes in Old Man Bay and joins the main road on the south coast at Frank Sound.

The roads are for the most part surfaced with a mixture of limestone, marl and coral-sand. There are no tar-treated roads. As the Dependency does not possess a mechanical roller the consolidation of the surface of the roads is a manual operation performed with rammers made of local hardwood. The country traversed by these roads is uniformly level, thus rendering extremely difficult any satisfactory system of drainage, and as a consequence considerable damage is done during periods of heavy and persistent rains.

## VEHICLES

There are no regular omnibus services in operation. A number of vehicles make more or less regular journeys from the country districts in Grand Cayman to the capital carrying passengers and agricultural produce. The few lorries are employed principally in transporting thatch rope and firewood from the country districts to Georgetown, and in conveying stores to the outlying districts. There are 86 privately owned cars in the Dependency, while bicycles are extensively used.

## RAILWAYS, TRAMWAYS

There are none.

## AIR SERVICES

The weekly seaplane service operated between Jamaica and the Cayman Islands by the Jamaica Air Transport Company, Limited, was terminated in June because of the poor condition of the two planes owned by the Company.

## SHIPPING AND STEAMSHIP SERVICES

The total number of merchant vessels which called at the ports of Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and of Cayman Brac during the year was 153 representing a net tonnage of 26,847 tons. The vessels were pre-ponderantly British and locally owned. The Dependency is not served by any steamship line, contact with the outside world being maintained by means of a steam-vessel, two small motor-vessels and a number of schooners which are fitted with auxiliary engines. The s.s. *Caymania*, a vessel of 730 tons, owned and operated by the Cayman Islands Shipping Company, Limited, maintains a three-weekly passenger, mail and cargo service between Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Belize, British Honduras. On both the outward and inward voyages the s.s. *Caymania* calls at Cayman Brac, Little Cayman and Grand Cayman. The operating company is subsidised by the Governments of Jamaica and of the Cayman Islands. The motor-vessels and schooners ply fairly frequently, but at irregular intervals, between Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, British Honduras, Cuba and the Gulf port of Tampa, Florida.

## PORT FACILITIES, GEORGETOWN

Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is the principal port of the Dependency. The anchorage area, in which there is ample depth of water for ocean-going vessels, is approximately half a mile north to south by a quarter of a mile east to west. Port facilities are poor. Vessels of shallow draught are able to use a small natural wharf of some 75 feet in length alongside which the depth at low water varies from 12 to 8 feet. A small transit shed adjoins the wharf. There is no lighterage service in operation and there are no bunkering facilities.

**CABLES, WIRELESS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES**

No cable communication exists and there are no inland telegraphs. There is a wireless station at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, with a range of 1,000 miles and a smaller station at Cayman Brac with a range of 150 miles. Both stations work fixed schedules daily with Jamaica and messages are transmitted between Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac twice daily. The Station at Grand Cayman also transmits meteorological reports to Havana, Cuba, every morning and evening.

Telephone systems are in operation in both Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac, but there are no private subscribers.

## PART III

### Chapter 1 : Geography and Climate

#### GEOGRAPHY

THE Cayman Islands, a Dependency of Jamaica, consist of three islands—Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman—which lie in the Caribbean Sea between  $19^{\circ} 15'$  and  $19^{\circ} 45'$  North Latitude and  $79^{\circ} 44'$  and  $81^{\circ} 27'$  West Longitude. The Islands are projecting peaks of the Cayman Ridge, a range of submarine mountains continuous with the Sierra Maestra Range of Cuba and running west to the Mysterious Bank in the direction of British Honduras.

Grand Cayman, which is situated about 180 miles west-north-west of the westernmost point of Jamaica and about 150 miles south of Cuba, is roughly 22 miles long from east to west with a maximum width of about 8 miles. Its most striking topographical feature is the shallow reef-protected harbour of North Sound, which is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles long by 6 miles wide and which almost cuts the Island into two parts. The area of Grand Cayman is approximately 76 square miles. The Island is divided into six districts, viz., Georgetown, West Bay, Prospect, Bodden Town, Northside and East End.

Cayman Brac, which lies 69 miles north-east of Grand Cayman, is the most elevated and the most striking in appearance of the group. It is about 12 miles in length, with an average width of a little over a mile and an area of approximately 14 square miles. Cayman Brac is divided into three districts, viz., Stake Bay, West End and the Creek.

Little Cayman, 5 miles to the westward of Cayman Brac, is 10 miles long with a maximum width of 2 miles and an area of about 10 square miles. Little Cayman is divided into two districts, viz., South Town and Jacksons.

In his *Geology of the Cayman Islands*, Dr. C. A. Matley, D.Sc., F.G.S., describes the Islands as follows : " All the islands are low-lying, and do not attain anywhere a height of more than 60 feet above sea-level, except Cayman Brac, the eastern end of which rises to 140 feet. Viewed from the sea, they have a general resemblance to the flat-topped islands of the Bahama group. They are formed entirely of calcareous rocks, which the present survey has shown to be separable into two formations. An older limestone, which I call the Bluff Limestone, forms the central and larger part of each island ; and a younger formation of consolidated coral-sand and marl, with some limestone, which I call the Ironshore Formation, occupies most of the periphery as a low coastal terrace, which never rises to a greater height than 12 to 15 feet above the sea, and generally terminates abruptly inland against raised marine cliffs of the Bluff limestone. In addition to the above are the recent deposits which, at sea, are living coral-reefs that almost surround the islands of Grand Cayman and Little

Cayman, but occur only to a limited extent at the south-west of Cayman Brac, and, ashore, consist of blown coral-sand and storm-beaches of coral shingle piled up by winds, storms, and hurricanes on the seaward side of the coastal platform. All the islands are entirely devoid of streams, owing to the porosity of the limestones, and even dry valleys are absent."

Some 10 miles west of Grand Cayman is an area of shoal water known as the Cayman Bank, which is 5 miles long and about half-a-mile wide, with depths of 15 to 20 fathoms. Its platform-like surface is surrounded on all sides by steep slopes.

South of the Cayman group, at distances varying from 25 to 50 miles, lies the Bartlett Deep which, some 50 to 90 miles wide extends in an east-and-west direction from the Gulf of Honduras to Western Haiti. Ten soundings of over 3,000 fathoms depth have been obtained, the sounding south of Grand Cayman being 3,428 fathoms.

#### CLIMATE

The climate of the Cayman Islands is for the greater part of the year excellent as, lying in the latitude of the Trade Winds, there are few days of calm and the north-east breezes temper even the hottest days. Only when the wind veers to the south-east or south can the temperature be termed oppressive.

The seasons are fairly well defined. The period May to October is the hot season when the temperature ranges from 70° F. to 85° F. and the prevailing winds are from east to south. During this period the rainfall is comparatively heavy and mosquitoes abound. The cool season is from November to April when the range of temperature is 10° lower and the prevailing winds from north-east to north-west. The most pleasant period is from mid-November to mid-March, when the weather is generally cool and there are few, if any, mosquitoes.

The total rainfall for the year 1947 was 51.90 inches, the average being around 60 inches per annum.

The hurricane season lasts from July to November and the Islands have been hit periodically. The last visitation of this kind, which occurred in October 1944, is said to have been the worst in living memory.

A meteorological station was erected at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, in 1935 by the Cuban Department of Agriculture and trained observers from the National Observatory at Havana are stationed there throughout the year. Reports are exchanged twice daily with Havana, whence weather information is re-transmitted throughout the Caribbean.

## Chapter 2 : History

The islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman are said to have been discovered by Columbus in May 1503, in the course of a voyage from Porto Bello, Panama, to Hispaniola (Haiti and Santo Domingo) and to have been named by him "Las Tortugas" on account of the numbers of marine turtle found around their shores. It is worthy of note that

the Islands, bearing no name, appear on the Cantino chart of 1503 in approximately their correct position.

No settlement appears to have been founded but the islands were frequently visited by vessels of all nations for revictualling purposes, the turtles being dried and salted.

An account exists of a visit paid in 1643 by the vessels under the command of Captain William Jackson after his abortive attempt on Jamaica. His description of Grand Cayman reads :

" This place is low land and all rockye, and there be other 2 Islands of ye same name and Quallitie, being by ye Spaniards called Chimanoe, from ye multitude of Alligators here found which are Serpents, if not resembling ye Crocodiles of Egypt. Hither doe infinitt numbers of sea tortoises resorte to lay their eggs upon ye Sandy Bay, which at this time (Junie) swarm so thick. The Island is much frequented by English, Dutch and French ships, that come purposely to salt up ye flesh of these Tortoises."

Jamaica was taken in 1655 and the Cayman Islands became a regular source of food supply for the soldiers and fleets of England cruising the Caribbean. Eventually, by the Treaty of Madrid in 1670, Jamaica was ceded to the British Crown and with it the Cayman Islands. There does not, however, appear to have been any serious settlement until the early part of the eighteenth century, although it is apparent that from time to time there were parties of residents chiefly composed of shipwrecked sailors, beach-combers and possibly marooned mariners. The earliest record of a grant of land being made to the first settlers is in 1734, followed by further patents in 1741. The families of " Bodden " and " Foster " are in all probability direct descendants from these patentees, some of whom bore those names.

The origin of the name " Cayman " has been the subject of much speculation, a likely theory being that parties coming ashore from visiting ships in search of turtle named the islands after the caimans, or alligators, which they found thereon.

## Chapter 3 : Administration

### GOVERNMENT

In the early days of settlement, public affairs were administered by Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The Justices functioned under the direction of one of their number whom they themselves selected, and who was styled " Governor ". In 1832 the principle of representative government was accepted and elected members known as Vestrymen were added to the administrative body. At the same time the title " Custos " was substituted for that of " Governor ".

An Act of Parliament, passed in 1863, provided for the ratification of all prior acts of the local body receiving the assent of the Governor of Jamaica. Under this authority, twenty acts, passed between 1832 and 1864, were submitted to the Governor of Jamaica whose assent thereto

was given in 1865. It was further provided in the Act that the Justices and Vestry should continue to exercise legislative powers, their enactments being subject to the assent of the Governor of Jamaica. Under the same authority the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Dependency, and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed.

In 1898 the powers of the Custos were vested in a Commissioner who combines administrative duties with those of Judge of the Grand Court. He is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The seat of government is at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, where the Commissioner resides.

The present Assembly of Justices and Vestry consists of the Commissioner as President, 28 Justices of the Peace and 27 Vestrymen.

The Justices of the Peace are commissioned in a General Commission of the Peace by the Governor of Jamaica, the latest Commission being dated 12 August 1946, when 32 Justices of the Peace were appointed.

The election of Vestrymen is held every two years, and is governed by an Act of 1832 which provided that "upon requisition of the Custos or Senior Magistrate, the Magistrates in the district shall call the people together and proceed to elect Vestrymen to serve for two years". Whereas women would appear to be included in the electorate, it has long been the practice for male tax-payers only to vote, the latter being defined in Law 5 of 1927 as "male persons between the ages of 18 and 60 years". The last election was held in August 1946.

## Chapter 4 : Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are used throughout the Dependency.

## Chapter 5 : Newspapers and Periodicals

There are no newspapers or periodicals published in the territory.

## Chapter 6 : Bibliography

- (a) *Notes on the History of the Cayman Islands* published in Jamaica by Dr. George S. S. Hirst, M.B., a former Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, contains in Part I a short account of the history of the Islands, in Part II an account of various events and the settlement of the Islands from the year 1734 to the year 1800. Part III is the history of the Dependency from 1800 to 1850.
- (b) *The History of the Cayman Islands* by B. D. Armstrong was published in 1911 by the Junior Philatelic Society.

- (c) *Birds of the Cayman Islands* by R. P. Lowe was published by Ibis in 1911.
- (d) *Cayman Islands* by F. J. Melville was published by G. Gibbons in 1914.

## GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

- (a) *Geology of the Cayman Islands* by S. A. Matley (1926).
- (b) *The Herpetology of the Cayman Islands* by Chapman Grant (1940).
- (c) *Forestry in the Cayman Islands* by Christopher Swabey, B.Sc., and C. Bernard Lewis, B.A.
- (d) *The Fisheries of the Cayman Islands* by Ernest F. Thompson, M.Sc., Ph.D. (Cantab).

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COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORT

# Cayman Islands

## 1948



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THE SERIES OF COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS which was re-introduced for the year 1946 (after suspension in 1940) is being continued with those relating to 1948.

It is anticipated that the Colonies and Protectorates for which 1948 Reports are being published will, with some additions, be the same as for the previous year (see list on cover page 3).

COLONIAL OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT ON  
THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

(Dependency of Jamaica)

FOR THE YEAR

1948

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1949

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The cover illustration shows the Shopping Centre,  
Georgetown, Grand Cayman

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## PART I

### Review of 1948

ALTHOUGH there has been no marked change either in social or economic conditions of the Dependency during the year the progress made during the last decade has been maintained. The losses sustained by certain industries have been offset by advances made in others and as a result it is anticipated that once again revenue for the financial year ending on 31st March, 1949, will exceed expenditure.

Steady, though necessarily gradual progress is being made to improve the medical and public health and educational facilities of the Dependency. Shipbuilding has been resuscitated in Cayman Brac where the coconut industry is thriving too. Unfortunately, however, the green turtle and hawksbill turtleshell industries suffered severely through the loss of markets. It is hoped that the position, particularly as regards the export of green turtle, will improve during 1949.

The plans for the development of a tourist industry in the Dependency have not materialised, although great interest is still being evinced by many. Because of the improvement in sea communication between the islands of the Dependency and Jamaica and the United States of America, the inauguration of an air service between Jamaica and Grand Cayman, and improved hotel facilities at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, it is hoped that some definite action will be taken at an early date to introduce tourists to the unusual attractions offered by the three islands which comprise the Dependency.

#### MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The Dependency continues to be served by a Government Medical Officer who is on secondment from the Government Medical Service of Jamaica. This officer is assisted in the Georgetown Hospital by two general and maternity nurses who are also on secondment from Jamaica, and a local unqualified nurse. A general and maternity nurse is stationed at Bodden town, Grand Cayman, to serve the Eastern Districts and a similarly qualified nurse is in residence at Cayman Brac. There are also two private medical practitioners in Grand Cayman and a Government dispenser in Cayman Brac.

#### New Hospital

The site on which the proposed new hospital is to be built has been purchased and construction of the new road leading to the site was commenced in November. It is expected that construction of the new

hospital will begin by mid-1949. The scheme is being financed by a free grant made under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts.

#### *Sanitation*

Some limited improvement in sanitation has been achieved in certain areas in Grand Cayman during the year under review.

#### *Mosquitoes*

In July by the courtesy of the Government of British Guiana, Dr. G. Giglioli, M.D. (It.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.T.M.S.H. (Eng.), Honorary Government Malariaiologist of British Guiana, visited Grand Cayman to conduct investigations and advise on the mosquito problem in the Dependency in relation to the recent advances in mosquito control technique.

Dr. Giglioli's investigations and report have disclosed that mosquitoes capable of transmitting malaria, yellow fever and filariasis are present in the island although the diseases themselves are absent. Because of more rapid air travel and intensified communication with the outside world the Dependency is now more liable to the introduction of these mosquito-borne diseases. It is therefore proposed to carry out, with Development and Welfare financial assistance, a systematic campaign to spray the interior of all houses throughout the island with DDT, using techniques successfully tried in other countries. It is expected that as a result of this systematic spraying the disease-carrying mosquitoes will be eradicated, and living conditions within the houses during the mosquito season will be made much more pleasant than they are at present.

#### EDUCATION

The Headmaster who received two years' advanced training in Jamaica and the United Kingdom assumed duty as Supervising Teacher of Primary Schools in January, 1948. This officer has been instrumental in introducing into the schools throughout the Dependency modern methods of instruction and aided by the co-operation of all teachers has already effected considerable improvement.

Two male trainees completed their courses at Mico Training College, Jamaica, and returned to Grand Cayman in December. One female trainee continues her studies at Shortwood Training College and should be available for service in the Dependency by the end of 1949.

By the rigid enforcement of the law relating to the attendance at school of children between the ages of seven and 14 years and with the co-operation of the Parent-Teacher Associations, there has been a marked improvement in the attendance, particularly during the second half of the year.

#### AGRICULTURE

There has been no increase in production in Grand Cayman where the demand for locally grown produce far exceeds the supply. In the

Lesser Islands, however, the position is far more satisfactory and a small quantity of produce is exported to Grand Cayman. Furthermore, while an unknown disease, similar to that found in Jamaica, has destroyed most of the coconut palms in Grand Cayman, the coconut industry in the Lesser Islands is being developed rapidly and it is hoped that within the next five or six years approximately three million nuts will be available for export. A Coconut Growers Association is being formed in Cayman Brac to promote the interests of the industry.

It is hoped with the aid of a free grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts to establish at or near Georgetown, Grand Cayman, a demonstration farm, orchard and garden. For this and co-related purposes an Agricultural Instructor would be seconded from Jamaica who would, apart from exercising supervision over the demonstration centre, frequently tour the districts for the purpose of establishing and supervising school gardens and 4-H Clubs. In September Mr. C. D. Hutchings, B.S.A., Senior Agricultural Officer of the Jamaica Department of Agriculture, visited Grand Cayman in this connection and prepared detailed plans for putting the scheme into effect. He also submitted recommendations for the improvement of cattle and poultry in the Dependency and advised on the use of weedkillers and on methods of combating certain plant pests.

#### SEAMEN

Though the number of unemployed seamen rose appreciably during 1948 a considerable number of Cayman Islanders continue to find employment on vessels flying the flags of North and Central American Republics. The remittances made by the seamen to their families have a considerable effect on the economy of the Dependency.

## PART II

### Chapter 1 : Population

THE earliest record relates to the year 1774 when the total population was estimated at 176 persons. By the year 1802, when the census was taken by an officer specially deputed for that purpose by the Governor of Jamaica, the total had risen to 933, of whom 545 were slaves. The figures for 1891, 1911, 1921 and 1934 were 4,322, 5,564, 5,253 and 6,009 respectively.

A census of Jamaica and its Dependencies financed by His Majesty's Government and directed by Mr. A. J. Pelletier, F.S.S., Chief of Census, Canadian Bureau of Statistics, was taken in January, 1943. This, in addition to population, embraced both housing and agriculture. The method employed on this occasion provided for the enumeration of the considerable number of men absent at sea and abroad.

The census of 1943 showed the population of the Dependency to be 6,670, which is the highest in its history, and which represents an increase of 11 per cent. over the figure recorded in 1934. The detailed figures are as follows :

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Grand Cayman . . . .	2,322	2,989	5,311
Cayman Brac . . . .	604	692	1,296
Little Cayman . . . .	29	34	63
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,955	3,715	6,670

Of a total population of 6,670, roughly classified according to racial origin, 1,052 are of African, 3,518 of mixed, and 2,100 of European descent.

This census revealed the number of males per 100 females to be 80, as against 70 in 1934 and 73 in 1921. On both the latter occasions, however, absent males were not taken into account.

The birth- and death-rates per 1,000 population and the infantile mortality rate per 1,000 births during the years 1944-48 were as follows :

	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality</i>
1944 . . . . .	21.3	9.6	49
1945 . . . . .	17.59	14.0	14
1946 . . . . .	17.58	6.62	33
1947 . . . . .	21.43	7.24	19.87
1948 . . . . .	21.13	8.22	62.5
	6		

The figures for migration during the period 1943-48 were:

	<i>Inward</i>	<i>Outward</i>	<i>Plus or Minus</i>
1943 . . . . .	327	395	— 68
1944 . . . . .	769	852	— 83
1945 . . . . .	735	698	+ 37
1946 . . . . .	872	754	+ 118
1947 . . . . .	1,123	1,370	— 247
1948 . . . . .	903	1,141	— 238

## Chapter 2 : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

There is no labour organisation in the Dependency and no statistics are available other than those prepared in connection with the 1943 Census. However, as there has been little change since then, the following figures are indicative of the present position :

<i>Industry Group</i>	<i>Gainfully occupied Population</i>		
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Agriculture</i> . . . . .	264	24	288
<i>Fishing</i> . . . . .	63	—	63
<i>Manufacturing</i> (foremen, bakers, blacksmiths, boot and shoe repairers, cabinet-makers, dress-makers, tailors, mechanics, sawyers, etc.) . . . . .	51	390	441
<i>Construction</i> . . . . .	127	—	127
<i>Transportation and Communication</i> (seamen, radio operators, captains, mates, engineers, telephone operators, truck drivers, etc.) . . . . .	678	—	678
<i>Trade</i> (owners, managers, agents, brokers, store clerks, etc.) . . . . .	71	54	125
<i>Service</i>			
(a) <i>Professional</i> (chemists, physicians, dentists, nurses, teachers, engineers, clergymen, etc.) . . . . .	17	40	57
(b) <i>Public</i> (Government officers, policemen, postmistress, and postal carriers, etc.) . . . . .	11	1	12
(c) <i>Personal</i> (barbers, hairdressers, barkeepers, cleaners, cooks, domestic servants, laundresses, etc.) . . . . .	56	421	477
(d) <i>Clerical</i> . . . . .	14	7	21
(e) <i>Labourers</i> . . . . .	236	6	242
<i>All Occupations</i> . . . . .	<u>1,588</u>	<u>943</u>	<u>2,531</u>

## RATES OF PAY

As will be seen from the above a large number of the men of the Cayman Islands between the ages of 20 and 50 are serving as seamen in various capacities on vessels plying all over the world, receiving wages ranging from £14 to £50 per month. Labourers are paid at the rate of from 7s. to 8s. per day, stevedores at 1s. 3d. an hour, shipwrights from 25s. to 35s., carpenters from 20s. to 30s. and painters from 15s. to 20s. per day. Female shop assistants are paid on an average of £4 per month and domestic servants from 30s. to 60s. per month with partial board.

In the straw rope industry women supply the greater part of the labour and their earnings average about 12s. a week.

In most industries and trades there is a 40-hour working week, the exception being shop assistants and store clerks who are called on to work a 45-hour week.

## COST OF LIVING

The staple diet of the inhabitants is flour or corn meal, supplemented by meat (fresh or salt), fish (fresh or salt) and locally grown ground provisions. The controlled prices of the following commodities at the end of 1948 were: flour, 7d. to 8d. per lb., according to quality; corn meal, 6d. per lb.; sugar, 4d. per lb.; fresh beef, 1s. per lb.; fresh pork, 1s. per lb.; salt beef, 2s. 5d. per lb.; fresh fish, 9d. per lb.; salt fish, 1s. 4½d. per lb.; beans 1s. to 1s. 3d. per lb.; rice 1s. to 1s. 3d. per lb.; kerosene 1s. 9d. per gallon; matches, 1d. per box; tobacco leaf, 5s. per lb.; and cigarettes, 9d. per packet of 20.

A comparison of the 1939 prices of a number of items of food, clothing and hardware with those now obtaining indicates that prices have risen over 200 per cent., but without a survey being carried out it is impossible to make any accurate statement as to the increase in the cost of living.

The cost of running a house for a European married couple including messing, servants' wages, laundry, rent of furnished house (£5 to £8), lighting (15s.), and a moderate amount of entertaining would be in the vicinity of £60 per month. The rate at the hotel is 25s. and at the guest houses 15s. a day.

## LABOUR LEGISLATION

The Trade Union Law of 1942 provided for the formation, registration rights, powers and control of trade unions, but up to the end of 1948 no trade union had been registered. In December, 1946, the Minimum Wage Law was passed and Regulations made thereunder were approved by the Governor in July, 1947. This Law gives powers to fix a minimum wage for employees where the wages paid in any particular occupation or trade are unreasonably low. No orders have as yet been made under this Law.

There is no factory legislation or legislative provision for sickness, old age, etc., but the introduction of a Workmen's Compensation Law is under consideration.

## Chapter 3 : Public Finance and Taxation

### REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The following table gives the revenue and expenditure of the Dependency for the last ten years :

	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
	£	£
1938 . . . . .	13,253	11,859
1939 . . . . .	7,555	14,821
1940 . . . . .	7,988	10,354
1941 . . . . .	12,803	11,924
1942-43 . . . . .	18,925	12,703
1943-44 . . . . .	27,932	22,137
1944-45 . . . . .	21,155	28,533*
1945-46 . . . . .	29,380	23,106
1946-47 . . . . .	31,200	28,950
1947-48 . . . . .	34,375	31,890

\* Includes £8,000 placed to Reserve Funds.

It should be noted that at the end of 1941 the financial year was altered so as to commence on 1st April and end on 31st March.

### PUBLIC DEBT

The following table shows the position in regard to loans on 31st December, 1948 :

<i>Designation and Amount of Loan</i>	<i>Balance Outstanding on 31st December, 1948</i>	<i>Remarks</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
		<i>on 31st December, 1948</i>	
Hurricane Loan, 1933	£1,915	Repayable to Government of Jamaica in 20 years from 1st April, 1938.	
£3,660 3%			
Public Works Loan, 1938	£4,117	Repayable to Government of Jamaica in 20 years, from 1st April, 1940.	
£6,500 3½%			

The former loan was incurred to repair the damage caused by the hurricane of 1932 and the latter to erect public buildings.

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1948

<i>Liabilities</i>		<i>Assets</i>	
Deposits . . .	£ 9,416	Advances . . .	£ 12,168
Government Savings Bank	9,009	Suspense . . .	13,133
Remittances in Transit .	690	Postal Order Account	131
Money Order Account .	13,203	Cash . . .	8,507
	<hr/>	Jamaica Treasury .	8,603
	32,318		
Balance . . .	15,684	Remittances between Chests . . .	460
	<hr/>	Treasury Bills . . .	5,000
	£48,002		<hr/>
			£48,002

## RESERVE FUNDS

On 31st March, 1948, the Reserve Fund of the Dependency stood at £29,094. On the same date, the Hurricane Fund, which is designed to relieve distress occasioned by hurricane, stood at £2,181. These sums are invested in British, Dominion and colonial securities held by the Crown Agents for the Colonies, all interest accruing therefrom being re-invested.

During 1947 the Dependency invested the sum of £5,000 from surplus funds in Jamaica treasury bills. These bills are redeemable every three months and bear interest at the rate of 3 per cent.

## TAXATION

The two main sources of revenue are import duties and the sale of stamps, the yields during the past six years having been as follows:

	<i>Import Duties</i>	<i>Sale of Stamps</i>
1942-43.	£ 8,892	£ 6,316
1943-44.	9,725	13,892
1944-45.	11,591	5,375
1945-46.	12,997	11,793
1946-47.	14,208	13,443
1947-48.	16,602	11,680

There is a tax on vehicles, bicycles, cattle, horses, dogs, firearms, boats, etc., while light dues and warehouse fees are collectable. There is no income tax, land tax or estate duty.

## CUSTOMS TARIFF

Under the Customs Tariff Law the majority of articles imported into the Dependency are subject to an *ad valorem* duty of 12½ per cent. cost,

insurance and freight being taken into account in arriving at the value of the dutiable articles. There is a preferential and a general tariff for some articles such as aerated waters, beer, butter, margarine, bicycles, cement, hardware, spirits, wines, tea and tobacco. Duty under the preferential tariff is collectable in the main at a rate of 12½ per cent. *ad valorem*, while under the general tariff at a rate of 20 per cent. *ad valorem*. The Second Schedule of the Tariff Law, 1935, lists a number of articles which are admitted free of duty, e.g. articles for the Navy, Army and Air Force or for the Commissioner, artificial limbs, advertising material, bullion and coin, wire screen cloth and mosquito netting, etc.

#### EXCISE AND STAMP DUTIES

There is no excise duty. Under Law 9 of 1906 stamp duty ranging from 1d. to £2 2s. is payable on the several instruments and documents mentioned in the Schedule to the Law. These include agreements, bills of exchange, conveyances, deeds, leases, mortgages, passports and receipts for money paid.

#### POLL TAX

A personal tax of 8s. a year is imposed on every male person between the ages of 18 years and 60 years.

### Chapter 4 : Currency and Banking

#### CURRENCY

British silver and copper together with Jamaica coins—penny, half-penny and farthing—are in circulation. Silver coins are legal tender up to 40s., and copper coins up to 1s.

Government of Jamaica notes of the denominations of £5, £1, 10s. and 5s. and a decreasing number of notes issued by private banks are in circulation. Currency notes and bank notes are unlimited legal tender.

#### BANKING

No banking facilities are available save those afforded by the Government Savings Bank which conducts business at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac. The Bank was established in 1908, the Branch at Cayman Brac being opened in 1934.

At the end of 1941 there were 478 open accounts and the amount standing to the credit of depositors, inclusive of interest, was £15,155. The corresponding figures at the end of March, 1948, were 1,489 and £127,637 respectively.

The steady growth of the Bank during recent years is due to a great extent to the increase in remittances made by Caymanians overseas to their dependants in the Cayman Islands, and also to the fact that the facilities offered by the Savings Bank are being increasingly appreciated by the public.

## Chapter 5 : Commerce

The prosperity of the Dependency depends in no small measure on the remittances made by its menfolk serving abroad in various, but principally seafaring, capacities. Other factors are the earnings of motor-schooners, engaged in the turtle and shark fisheries, and in the Caribbean Gulf carrying trade.

Additional contributions arise from periodic construction of schooners and other vessels for overseas delivery.

### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

#### Imports

With few exceptions, all commodities required by the inhabitants of the Islands have to be imported. This is true even of foodstuffs, as the supply of fresh fish, meat and locally grown ground provisions is far short of the demand. The total value of imports for 1948 was £139,491 as compared with £122,448 for 1947. The value and quantities of the main imports are as follows :

	1947		1948 (Estimated)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Flour (barrels)	2,753	10,102	2,906	13,298
Corn Meal (barrels)	548.5	1,731	678	1,828
Rice (cwt.)	168	638	82	330
Sugar (tons)	273.5	6,563	297	8,588
Textile and Wearing				
Apparel		15,931		19,452
Oil, Petrol (gls.)	27,877	1,930	31,206	1,925
Oil, Kerosene (gls.)	28,629	1,452	38,892	2,156

#### Exports

The total value of exports during 1948 was £19,241 as compared with £20,162 for 1947. The main exports were as follows :—

	1947		1948	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Turtles (no.)	2,602	9,107	2,012	7,042
Rope (fthms.)	1,041	5,205	1,194	5,973
Turtle Skin (lb.)	11,152	1,799	12,240	2,448
Shark Skin (lb.)	7.350	455	13,753	2,751
Hawksbill Shell (lb.)	5.390	3,200	125	38

Though the quantity of thatch rope produced and exported has remained fairly constant for a number of years the price per 1,000 fathoms has, under Government control, advanced from 30s. in 1941 to 100s. in 1946, remaining at the latter figure throughout 1948.

Re-exports during 1948 totalled £30,456, composed almost entirely of rice (8,239 cwts. valued at £28,126) and prunes (855 cases valued at £472) landed from two vessels wrecked in the Cayman Islands during the year. There were no re-exports during 1947.

## Chapter 6 : Production

### AGRICULTURE

As no topographical survey of the Islands has ever been made it is difficult to estimate even approximately the total area of cultivable land. The pockets of loam which are found amongst the older limestone are of considerable fertility, but the sandy wastes along the coastline are of no agricultural value. In addition, because of the outcrop of decaying coral-limestone, it is doubtful whether there is an acre of land which could be ploughed without fatal results to the plough. Many of the Islanders are keen agriculturists, taking a particular pride in their cattle and pastures. Though the Islands are capable of producing a wide range of tropical fruits and vegetables, the total yield is, both in volume and variety, considerably below what it might be if agriculture were more diligently pursued. Insufficient produce is grown for local consumption—potatoes, beans, groundnuts and fruit being imported. It should, however, be stated that the Islands lack agricultural guidance and, in addition, in certain areas of Grand Cayman the depredations of the Red Agouti, locally called "rabbit", tend to discourage the agriculturist. Efforts are being made to eliminate this pest by means of a cash bonus on every head secured. The coconut industry in the Lesser Islands is being rapidly expanded and during the year under review thousands of nuts were exported to Grand Cayman.

### LIVESTOCK

The figures of livestock, as disclosed by the census of 1943, are as follows :

Horses . . . . .	79
Donkeys . . . . .	101
Cattle . . . . .	1,858
Goats . . . . .	118
Poultry . . . . .	11,135
Pigs . . . . .	397

The common pasturage for cattle is guinea grass, which grows abundantly. Most of the cattle are owned by the larger owners, while on the other hand pigs are for the most part owned by the poorer classes. The poultry which is raised consists almost entirely of fowls, the number of turkeys and ducks being negligible.

## MINERALS

Phosphatic deposits were, from 1884 to 1890, worked commercially in all three islands, but they were reported to be low grade and of small extent. A geological survey of the islands was made in 1924 without, however, revealing any mineral deposits of commercial value.

## FORESTRY

The principal forest products are mahogany and the thatch palm. The latter sustains the thatch rope industry, the Dependency's principal peasant industry, on which many of the poorest class are in large measure dependent for a living. The entire output of this commodity is absorbed by the Jamaica fishing industry. Mahogany is chiefly used in the building of schooners. It is also to be seen in public buildings and private houses. The export of mahogany from the Dependency has been controlled under emergency powers since 1942.

It is not possible to say with any degree of accuracy what the Dependency's resources are in these two products as no land survey of the Dependency has ever been made. In December, 1945, the Conservator of Forests, Jamaica, and the Curator of the Museum of that Island carried out a forestry survey of the Cayman Islands and in their report recommended that the general forest policy should be

- (1) To conserve and develop the production of native timbers for ship building, house construction and other purposes, and to limit wasteful production methods.
- (2) To conserve thatch palms for rope-making and other purposes.
- (3) To develop minor industries, such as furniture-making and extend the uses of thatch.

It was further recommended that the first necessity was to carry out an aerial survey and a cadastral survey, after which certain areas of unclaimed land, incapable of agricultural or other development, would be declared forest reserves and managed with a view to timber, fuel and thatch production. It was suggested that legislation should be introduced (a) to protect mahogany from fire, and to regulate its cutting and the purposes for which it was to be used, and (b) to prohibit or regulate the destruction of the thatch palm. The report stated that :

“ Given adequate protection there is every reason to believe that natural regeneration of Mahogany and Thatch Palm will be sufficient to meet requirements on Grand Cayman. At a later date, it might be desirable to make studies in regeneration and growth of Mahogany and Thatch Palm at the Agricultural Station, for which we understand proposals are being made. If Forest Reserves are established it will obviously be desirable to draw up plans for their management.”

Action is being taken on these recommendations.

## FISHERIES

Deep-sea fishing, which constitutes one of the main industries of the Dependency, is operated by the wealthier merchants or the owners of

schooners. It covers turtle and shark which are taken on the banks, shoals and cays that lie off the coast of Honduras and Nicaragua. The live green turtle and the shark products are exported to the United States. Lobster caught off the banks find a ready market in the Canal Zone. The ship's company works on the share principle. The owner of the vessel supplies the material for making nets, buoys, etc., while the crew prepare the nets and buoys and ready the vessel for sea. From the gross proceeds of the catch a sum is paid to the Nicaraguan Government as royalty and the balance is divided between the crew and the owner. The crew pay for the stores supplied prior to sailing by the owner. Coastwise fishing is carried out by small fishermen working in pairs. Their catch, which includes lobster, has a ready sale and the demand far exceeds the supply.

In a Report on the Fisheries of the Cayman Islands by Dr. Ernest F. Thompson, M.Sc. (N.Z.), Ph.D. (Cantab.), published in 1946 under Colonial Development and Welfare in the West Indies, the development of the fishing industry was recommended.

Dr. Thompson stated that :

" The only other new industry which seems possible is fishing for export. A very small amount for export could be taken locally, but there is a far greater potential supply. The Cayman Islands are fitted by geographical position and seafaring tradition to exploit the fisheries' resources of the Rosaline Bank, Mosquito Cays, Seranna and Serannilla Banks, and the mass of small cays and islands in this region. From both theoretical reasoning and exhaustive information from practical fishermen, it seems certain that these areas represent the chief potential source of fish within reach of Jamaica. At present these resources are not fished at all or only to a very limited extent. Fish from this source could be a partial solution to Jamaica's need for reducing her dependence on northern salt fish.

" At the earliest possible date, an extensive survey of these areas should be made and if possible, a Cayman Island crew should be used for the purpose. The survey should be aimed at

- (a) Determining the supply of fish available and the best methods and commercial cost of catching it.
- (b) Investigating the available markets and the best methods of handling for these markets. This would entail experiments in various methods of salting, smoking and refrigeration, and steps should be taken to have Islanders trained in these processes with the least possible delay.

Though the obvious market is Jamaica, Haiti, San Domingo, and Puerto Rico should also be considered.

It is probable that this survey could be combined with the shark fishing survey already recommended. Again, methods and to a large extent regions surveyed for this programme would be of importance to British Honduras. Perhaps here too a combination of effort would be possible. These surveys should not be considered as of importance to the Cayman Islands only. They are of great importance to the whole food supply for this part of the Caribbean."

#### BOAT-BUILDING

A vessel of 43 tons was completed and launched at Northside, Grand Cayman, and two yachts of approximately 20 tons each were under construction at Cayman Brac at the close of the year. This industry, which employs mainly local labour, suffered severely during the war years through the shortage of material, but every effort is being made to resuscitate it, with some success at Cayman Brac. Local hard-woods are

generally used for "framing" the vessels, while all planking and fittings must be obtained from abroad.

## Chapter 7 : Social Services

### EDUCATION

Primary education is free and compulsory for all children between the ages of seven and 14 and textbooks and material are supplied free of charge. Control is exercised by a Board of Education which includes one member nominated by the Teachers' Association.

There are 12 primary schools in the Dependency, eight in Grand Cayman and four in Cayman Brac. A small establishment at Little Cayman provides for the few children of school age in that Island, the total population of which is now under 60 persons. The average attendance during 1948 was 669 with 850 children on the rolls.

The teaching staff of the Dependency consists of nine men and 13 women teachers of whom six (four men and two women), are certificated. In addition the Revenue Officer of Little Cayman performs the duties of teacher to the children of that Island.

There are three officially recognised private schools, the largest and best-equipped of which is at Georgetown, Grand Cayman. There are no secondary, technical or adult evening schools, and the highest standard of education reached in the Cayman Islands is the Third Year Jamaica Local (or Pupil Teachers) Examination.

The Government Medical Officer carries out routine medical inspection of school children and, as soon as the services of a full-time dentist can be secured, it is proposed to have periodic dental inspection carried out at all the schools in the Dependency.

### HEALTH

The Health Staff of the Dependency consists of a medical officer, a dispenser, a sanitary inspector and three general and maternity nurses. The dispenser and one nurse are stationed at Cayman Brac, the remainder at Grand Cayman. There are also two private medical practitioners in Grand Cayman.

Two female students are undergoing training as general and maternity nurses at the Jamaica Public Hospital under Colonial Development and Welfare auspices.

During 1947 the Secretary of State for the Colonies approved a grant of £20,100 under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act to enable the medical facilities of the Dependency to be improved. The following are the main provisions :

- (a) the erection of a 20-bed hospital at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, to serve the whole Dependency ;
- (b) the erection of quarters for the additional medical officer ;

- (c) the salary for a period of two years of a dispenser seconded from the Jamaica Medical Service;
- (d) the salary of two nurses seconded from the Jamaica Medical Service for a period of two and four years respectively;
- (e) the salary of two Caymanian nurses for four years;
- (f) the salary of a dentist for three years; and
- (g) dental equipment.

A further grant was approved during the year under review to cover the cost of the construction of a road to the site on which the new hospital is to be built. The detailed plans for the Hospital have been prepared in Jamaica and it is expected that building operations will begin by mid-1949. Work on the road approach was started in November.

### *Hospital and Dispensaries*

The small hospital at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, was re-opened in April, 1947, and during 1948 there were 87 admissions. Of the 65 operations performed 30 were major and 35 minor. There were 1,753 out-patients treated at the hospital and at the Government Medical Officer's Office while in addition the Government Medical Officer attended to 157 patients in their homes. More than one-third of the total number of patients seen by the Government Medical Officer were given free attention and many also received free hospital treatment.

The outstations at West Bay, Boddentown, East End, Northside and Savannah were visited regularly by the Government Medical Officer who treated over 500 patients, no charge being made in approximately 50 per cent. of the cases.

	<i>Grand Cayman</i>	<i>Lesser Islands</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Total Birth and Birth Rates</i>			
Births . . . . .	115	29	144
Birth-rate per 1,000 . . . . .	21.78	18.92	21.13
<i>Total Deaths and Death-Rates</i>			
Deaths . . . . .	44	12	56
Death-rate per 1,000 . . . . .	8.75	7.80	8.22
<i>Infant Mortality</i>			
Live Births . . . . .	115	29	144
Death of Babies under 1 year of age . . . . .	7	2	9
Infant Mortality per 1,000 . . . . .	60.9	68.6	62.5
<i>Main Causes of Death</i>			
Cerebral Thrombosis . . . . .			3
Cardiac Decompensation with Failure . . . . .			3
Carcinoma of Stomach . . . . .			3
Carcinoma of Uterus . . . . .			3
Nephritis, Hypertension and Cardiac Failure . . . . .			2
Myocardial Degeneration with Cardiac Failure . . . . .			2

Of the 56 deaths registered in the Cayman Islands during 1948, 23 were those of persons aged 70 years or over.

*Highest Ages at Death*

	60-70 Years	70-80 Years	80-90 Years	Over 90 Years
Grand Cayman	2	9	9	1
Lesser Islands	1	2	2	—
—	—	—	—	—
	3	11	11	1
	—	—	—	—

The greatest ages reached were 90 years in Grand Cayman and 86 years in Cayman Brac.

*Chief Causes of Ill-health*

Essential Hypertension. Due to the highly-strung nature of the average inhabitant. The fact that the majority of the men spend most of their lives at sea would contribute to emotional instability in family life. This is very common.

Psychoneuroses . These are frequently found and are probably due partly to inbreeding and partly as mentioned above to the effect of the unnatural nautical life of the majority of the menfolk.

Headaches and Eye-strain Due to excessive glare and exposure to wind. Also absence of proper illumination. Frequent cause of disability in children.

Sinusitis . . . (a) due to exposure to wind and dust ; (b) the type called frontal may be in some cases caused by constriction of the frontal sinuses in children and young adults because of the practice of carrying loads on the back supported by means of a band passing across the forehead ; (c) inadequate ventilation. This is fairly common.

Constipation . . . Due partly to the absence of latrines and partly to the high protein diet and almost total absence of green vegetables and roughage in the diet. This is very common.

Backaches . . . Common. Chiefly a feminine complaint due to the unskilled attention at child-birth and also the fact that most of the women work extremely hard too soon after child-birth. As a result of uterine displacement it is common.

Chronic Appendicitis . . . . .	Cases are frequently seen. High protein diet, constipation and worm infestation are probably contributory causes.
Lower Abdominal Pain . . . . .	Commonest in spinsters and ultimate complication of urogenital infection.
Oxygen Deprivation . . . . .	Symptoms of asthma and probably due to grossly inadequate ventilation. Very common.
Asthma, bronchial . . . . .	Common. Probably due to hereditary sensitivity and possibly psychological. Most common in the mosquito season. May be due to an allergy to the protein of the mosquito bite or to the oxygen deprivation caused by ill ventilated houses during the mosquito season.
Round-worm Infestation . . . . .	Extremely common at all ages from one year to 80 years. Obvious cause is the grossly unsatisfactory method of faecal disposal, excreta being frequently dumped in back yards.
Measles . . . . .	See under communicable diseases.
Flatulence . . . . .	Very common due to the excessive ingestion of peas, beans, roots and other starchy food.
Colds . . . . .	Fairly common.
Rodent Ulcer . . . . .	3 cases seen.
Vitamin B Deficiency . . . . .	Common. Due to the popularity of tinned foods and also maize in the diet.
Iron-deficiency Anaemia . . . . .	Common.
Pernicious Anaemia . . . . .	Not very common.
Acute Appendicitis . . . . .	7 cases.
Ruptured Ectopic Gestation . . . . .	1 case.
Carcinoma of Stomach . . . . .	3 cases.
Carcinoma of Large Bowel . . . . .	1 case.
Carcinoma of Uterus . . . . .	4 cases.

#### *Venereal Diseases*

There was a considerable increase in the number of cases treated. This was probably due to health education and to increased assurance in the efficacy of Penicillin treatment for gonorrhoea.

During the past year the cases appeared to be fairly equally divided between the major racial groups and their admixtures.

All treatment was free.

Syphilis . . . . .	6
Gonorrhoea . . . . .	92
Syphilis and Gonorrhoea . . . . .	1
Neurosyphilis . . . . .	2

### Notifiable Diseases

*Pulmonary Tuberculosis.* There was one case which was notified and sent to Jamaica. This patient, a Jamaican, had recently arrived here after prolonged residence abroad.

Tuberculin patch tests of practically all school children in the Island between six and 14 years, approximately 800, were carried out. The percentage of positive reactions was slightly less than 2·5. The West Bay area gave slightly more than 3 per cent. The Georgetown area gave slightly less than 1 per cent.

	<i>Grand Cayman</i>	<i>Cayman Brac</i>
Pneumonia . . . .	17	3
Influenza . . . .	14	40 (probably chiefly coryza)

### Communicable Diseases

During the first half of the year there was a widespread epidemic of German measles. At least 10 per cent. of the population was affected, and because of the sheltered existence of the inhabitants it attained some severity.

### Hygiene and Sanitation

Sanitation in the Dependency remains unsatisfactory though some improvement in Grand Cayman was effected during the year. A large number of households are without latrines and in many cases where latrines do exist they are in a very insanitary condition. The Board of Health, of which the Government Medical Officer and the Sanitary Inspector are members, is making every effort to impress on the people the seriousness of the situation and to obtain their co-operation in effecting the necessary improvement.

Because of the presence of mosquitoes in large numbers during many months of the year the doors and windows of the many unscreened, houses have to be kept fast shut with a resultant complete lack of ventilation.

### Maternity and Child Welfare

Every expectant mother was offered free examination and advice throughout pregnancy and 40 women took advantage of this service.

All children were given "worm treatment" free. Many children were also given a free issue of cod-liver oil.

### HOUSING

The Dependency as a whole is well housed, wooden dwellings predominating. The houses are generally built on hard-wood piles which raise them a couple of feet above ground-level. They are roofed with either wooden tiles or corrugated iron, the roof serving as a catchment for rainwater which is stored in cement tanks or galvanised drums. For the kitchen and the latrine, which are generally erected a short distance

away from the main building, roofs made of the thatch palm are often preferred in the out-of-town districts.

Many of these wooden dwellings are attractively designed and have a generous piece of ground around them which is generally, and noticeably so in the case of the West Bay settlement, laid out with fruit trees, flowering shrubs and flowers. In the Eastern Districts the typically local style of houses framed in local hardwoods and walled with lime mortar and wattles are seen. Practically every house is owned by the occupier. The principal improvement required is in sanitary arrangements and, as stated earlier in this report, the Board of Health is carrying out a drive to improve the existing conditions.

The census of 1943 covered in detail the question of housing, and the figures then recorded revealed that 1,281 houses accommodated on an average 5.2 persons per house as compared with the 1934 census figures of 1,246 houses with an average of 4.69 persons per house.

There are no building societies in the Dependency and there is no tax on house property.

#### SOCIAL WELFARE

The Dependency does not maintain either a poor house or a mental hospital. Poor relief is administered through a society of voluntary workers which receives an annual grant from public funds. Mental cases are sent to the Mental Hospital in Jamaica, the cost of their maintenance being met from the funds of the Dependency.

The Public Library at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is housed in a commodious and attractive concrete building. An annual grant for its maintenance is made from public funds. There is also a small library at West Bay, Grand Cayman, and during 1948 boxes of books and magazines were circulated to the principal districts of Grand Cayman and to Cayman Brac.

The Girls' Guildry Movement, an undenominational organisation formed in Grand Cayman late in 1946, continued its activities during 1948.

There is a Wolf Cub Pack at Georgetown and a boys' club at West Bay, Grand Cayman. A Sea Scout Troop was organised at Boddentown, Grand Cayman, early in 1948, and during 1949 every effort will be made to revive the Scout Movement throughout the Dependency.

The East End Citizens' Association, formed in 1935 by the male residents of East End and run on co-operative lines, has achieved considerable success in getting the people of the district to work together to their mutual advantage. A similar organisation, the Cayman Pioneer Club, was formed at Boddentown in 1947; great interest is being shown in the club which has as its principal objects the encouragement of communal activities, both social and industrial.

At Georgetown, Grand Cayman, there is a small cinema and British Council films are periodically shown in the Town Hall. There is, however, a great lack of recreational facilities throughout the Dependency.

## Chapter 8 : Legislation

The more important legislation, apart from the Appropriation Laws, enacted during the year was as follows :

The Marine Industry (Import Duty and Package Tax) (Relief) Law, 1947, No. 1 of 1948, providing for the entry into the Cayman Islands, free of duty and package tax for a period of three years, of certain material and equipment used in the boat-building industry.

The Law for Regulating the Courts of Justice in the Cayman Islands (Amendment) Law, 1948, No. 4 of 1948, making provision for the holding of Petty Courts in the principal Districts of Grand Cayman and at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac.

The Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Law, 1948, No. 5 of 1948, enabling the introduction of up-to-date regulations governing the use of motor vehicles on the road, their maintenance and periodic inspection.

The Allowance to Jurors Law, 1948, No. 8 of 1948, providing for the payment of travelling expenses to jurors resident more than one mile from the place at which Grand Court is held. Provision was also made for the payment of an allowance of 1s. 6d. per day to jurors in attendance at Grand Court.

## Chapter 9 : Justice, Police and Prisons

### JUSTICE

The Courts of the Dependency are as follows :

- (i) The Grand Court of the Cayman Islands.
- (ii) The Quarterly Petty Court.
- (iii) The Petty Sessions Court.

(i) *The Grand Court*, constituted by Act 3 of 1889, sections 5 to 8 (Cayman Islands) and Chap. 493 (Jamaica), is presided over by the Commissioner who is the Judge by virtue of his office as Commissioner (Jamaica Laws Revised Edition, Chap. 491, Section 3). The Court sits twice a year in June and December, and has jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters as follows :

- (a) In civil matters where the amount claimed exceeds £10 whether arising from tort or from contract or from both, bankruptcy, equity, and probate and administration ;
- (b) in criminal matters as set out in Section 210 of Chap. 493 (J.R.E.).

It is provided by Section 5, Chap. 491 (J.R.E.), that it shall not be lawful for the Commissioner to preside at the trial of any case of capital felony and a Judge from Jamaica is always sent to the Dependency for this purpose.

There is a right of appeal from any judgement, decree or order of the

Grand Court to the Supreme Court of Jamaica as set out in section 201 of Chap. 493, and Chap. 494 (J.R.E.).

(ii) *The Quarterly Petty Court*, constituted by Act 3 of 1889, Section 3, is presided over by two Justices of the Peace and the jurisdiction of this Court extends to actions whether arising from tort or from contract or from both, and trespass to lands, when the debt or damages claimed shall not exceed the sum of £10, and in which there is no question of the title to real estate involved. This Court under Section 4 also has the power to try all cases in which disputes have arisen relative to the boundaries of lands or plantations of which it is necessary to have view. Jurisdiction may be exercised by one Justice and a jury of not more than five nor less than three persons.

(iii) *The Petty Sessions Court* is presided over by two Justices of the Peace. This Court deals with minor offences and preliminary examinations in indictable offences. Appeals from the Quarterly Petty Court and from the Petty Sessions Court are provided for in the Cayman Islands Appeal Regulations Law, Law 5 of 1918.

The June and December Sessions of the Grand Court were presided over by a Judge sent from Jamaica. In all, 10 criminal, 17 civil suits and four Judgement summons were disposed of during the year. Among the criminal cases a sentence of three years was imposed for larceny and indecent assault; in three cases of larceny the accused were bound over for periods of from one to two years; and sentences of four and six months hard labour were imposed for larceny on board ship and shop-breaking and larceny, respectively.

#### POLICE

The Police Force consists of one inspector, two sergeants and nine constables. One sergeant and one constable are stationed at Cayman Brac. There are, in addition, four district constables who function in cases of emergency and who receive a small allowance for their services.

#### PRISONS

There is a small gaol at Georgetown, a concrete building with six cells opening on to a small courtyard. It is used for prisoners serving short sentences and those sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment with hard labour for a term of six months or upwards who are awaiting transfer to the General Penitentiary in Jamaica.

### Chapter 10 : Public Utilities

Only Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is provided with electricity, and this is supplied by a private company, the Cayman Electric Light and Power Company. Power is turned on one hour before sunset and off at midnight. The company intends to install shortly a modern plant capable of providing electricity to many of the Districts of Grand Cayman.

## Chapter 11 : Communications

### ROADS

Of the 50 miles of motorable roads in the Dependency, 40 are in Grand Cayman and 10 in Cayman Brac. Little Cayman is served by footpaths only. In Grand Cayman, the principal road, approximately 30 miles in length, closely follows the line of the coast from Boatswain Bay on the north-west, through West Bay, Georgetown and Boddentown to East End on the south-east coast. This embraces all the larger settlements with the exception of Northside which is served by a branch road which takes in Old Man Bay and joins the main road on the south coast at Frank Sound.

The roads are for the most part surfaced with a mixture of limestone, marl and coral-sand. There are no tar-treated roads. As the Dependency does not possess a mechanical roller the consolidation of the surface of the roads is a manual operation performed with rammers made of local hardwood. The country traversed by these roads is uniformly level, thus rendering extremely difficult any satisfactory system of drainage, and as a consequence considerable damage is done during periods of heavy and persistent rains.

### VEHICLES

There are no regular omnibus services in operation in Grand Cayman but a number of motor vehicles make regular journeys from the country districts to the capital carrying passengers, firewood, thatch rope and agricultural produce, and take stores and passengers on the return journey. In Cayman Brac two lorries have been converted into omnibuses and maintain a regular service from end to end of that island. There are 65 privately owned motor-cars in the Dependency and bicycles are extensively used.

There are no railways or tramways.

### AIR SERVICES

A weekly seaplane service between Jamaica and the Cayman Islands was inaugurated in June by Caribbean International Airways, Limited. The company receives a subsidy from the Cayman Islands Government. The improvement in transport facilities has been greatly welcomed by the people of the Dependency.

### SHIPPING SERVICES

The total number of merchant vessels which called at the ports of Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and at Cayman Brac during the year was 170, representing a net tonnage of 27,817. The vessels were mainly British and locally owned. The Dependency is not served by any steam-

ship line, contact with the outside world being maintained by means of a steam-vessel, two small motor-vessels and a number of schooners which are fitted with auxiliary engines. The SS. *Caymania*, a vessel of 730 tons, owned and operated by the Cayman Islands Shipping Company, Limited, maintains a three-weekly passenger, mail and cargo service between Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Belize, British Honduras. On both the outward and inward voyages the SS. *Caymania* calls at Cayman Brac, Little Cayman and Grand Cayman. The operating company is subsidised by the Governments of both Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. The motor-vessels and schooners ply fairly frequently, but at irregular intervals, between Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, British Honduras, Cuba and the Gulf Port of Tampa, Florida.

Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is the principal port of the Dependency. The anchorage area, in which there is ample depth of water for ocean-going vessels, is approximately half a mile north to south by a quarter of a mile east to west. Port facilities are poor. Vessels of shallow draught are able to use a small natural wharf of some 75 feet in length alongside which the depth at low water varies from 12 to 8 feet. A small transit shed adjoins the wharf. There is no lightering service in operation and there are no bunkering facilities.

#### CABLES, WIRELESS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES

No cable communication exists and there are no inland telegraphs.

There is a wireless station at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, with a range of 1,000 miles and a smaller station at Cayman Brac with a range of 150 miles. Both stations work fixed schedules daily with Jamaica, and messages are transmitted between Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac twice daily. The station at Grand Cayman also transmits meteorological reports to Havana, Cuba, every morning and evening.

Telephone systems are in operation in both Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac, but there are no private subscribers.

## PART III

### Chapter I : Geography and Climate

#### GEOGRAPHY

THE Cayman Islands, a Dependency of Jamaica, consist of three islands—Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman—which lie in the Caribbean Sea between  $19^{\circ} 15'$  and  $19^{\circ} 45'$  North Latitude and  $79^{\circ} 44'$  and  $81^{\circ} 27'$  West Longitude. The islands are projecting peaks of the Cayman Ridge, a range of submarine mountains continuous with the Sierra Maestra Range of Cuba and running west to the Mysterious Bank in the direction of British Honduras.

Grand Cayman, which is situated about 180 miles west-north-west of the westernmost point of Jamaica and about 150 miles south of Cuba, is roughly 22 miles long from east to west with a maximum width of about eight miles. Its most striking topographical feature is the shallow reef-protected harbour of North Sound which is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles long by six miles wide and which almost cuts the island into two parts. The area of Grand Cayman is approximately 76 square miles. The island is divided into six Districts, viz. Georgetown (population 1,462), West Bay (population 1,866), Prospect (population 414), Bodden Town (population 618), North-side (population 387) and East End (population 564).

Cayman Brac, which lies 69 miles north-east of Grand Cayman, is the most elevated and the most striking in appearance of the group. It is about 12 miles in length, with an average width of a little over a mile and an area of approximately 14 square miles. Cayman Brac is divided into four Districts : Stake Bay, West End, Creek and Spot Bay.

Little Cayman, five miles to the westward of Cayman Brac, is 10 miles long with a maximum width of two miles and an area of about 10 square miles. Little Cayman is divided into two districts : South Town and Jacksons.

In his *Geology of the Cayman Islands*, Dr. C. A. Matley, D.Sc., F.G.S., describes the islands as follows :

“ All the islands are low-lying, and do not attain anywhere a height of more than 60 feet above sea-level, except Cayman Brac, the eastern end of which rises to 140 feet. Viewed from the sea, they have a general resemblance to the flat-topped islands of the Bahama group. They are formed entirely of calcareous rocks, which the present survey has shown to be separable into two formations. An older limestone, which I call the Bluff Limestone, forms the central and larger part of each island ; and a younger formation of consolidated coral-sand and marl, with some limestone, which I call the Ironshore Formation, occupies most of the periphery as a low coastal terrace, which never rises to a greater height than 12 to 15 feet above the sea, and generally terminates

abruptly inland against raised marine cliffs of the Bluff Limestone. In addition to the above are the recent deposits which, at sea, are living coral-reefs that almost surround the islands of Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, but occur only to a limited extent at the south-west of Cayman Brac, and, ashore, consist of blown coral-sand and storm-beaches of coral shingle piled up by winds, storms, and hurricanes on the seaward side of the coastal platform. All the islands are entirely devoid of streams, owing to the porosity of the limestones, and even dry valleys are absent."

Some 10 miles west of Grand Cayman is an area of shoal water known as the Cayman Bank, which is five miles long and about half-a-mile wide, with depths of 15 to 20 fathoms. Its platform-like surface is surrounded on all sides by steep slopes.

South of the Cayman group, at distances varying from 25 to 50 miles, lies the Bartlett Deep which, some 50 to 90 miles wide, extends in an east-and-west direction from the Gulf of Honduras to Western Haiti. Ten soundings of over 3,000 fathoms' depth have been obtained, the sounding south of Grand Cayman being 3,428 fathoms.

#### CLIMATE

The climate of the Cayman Islands is for the greater part of the year excellent as, lying in the latitude of the Trade Winds, there are few days of calm and the north-east breezes temper even the hottest days. Only when the wind veers to the south-east or south can the temperature be termed oppressive.

The seasons are fairly well defined. The period May to October is the hot season when the temperature ranges from 70° F. to 85° F. and the prevailing winds are from east to south. During this period the rainfall is comparatively heavy and mosquitoes abound. The cool season is from November to April when the range of temperature is 10° lower and the prevailing winds from north-east to north-west. The most pleasant period is from mid-November to mid-March when the weather is generally cool and there are few, if any, mosquitoes. The total rainfall for 1948 was 49.49 inches, the average being around 60 inches per annum.

The hurricane season lasts from July to November, and the Islands have been hit periodically. The last visitation of this kind which occurred in October, 1944, is said to have been the worst in living memory.

A meteorological station was erected at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, in 1935 by the Cuban Department of Agriculture, and trained observers from the National Observatory at Havana are stationed there throughout the year. Reports are exchanged twice daily with Havana whence weather information is retransmitted throughout the Caribbean.

## Chapter 2 : History

The islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman are said to have been discovered by Columbus in May, 1503, in the course of a voyage from Porto Bello, Panama, to Hispaniola (Haiti and Santo Domingo) and to

have been named by him "Las Tortugas" on account of the numbers of marine turtle found around their shores. It is worthy of note that the islands, bearing no name, appear on the Cantino chart of 1503 in approximately their correct position.

No settlement appears to have been founded but the islands were frequently visited by vessels of all nations for revictualling purposes, the turtles being dried and salted.

An account exists of a visit paid in 1643 by the vessels under the command of Captain William Jackson after his abortive attempt on Jamaica. His description of Grand Cayman reads :

" This place is low land and all rockye, and there be other 2 Islands of ye same name and Qualitie, being by ye Spaniards called Chimanoe, from ye multitude of Alligators here found which are Serpents, if not resembling ye Crocodiles of Egypt. Hither doe infinit numbers of sea tortoises' resorte to lay their eggs upon ye Sandy Bay, which at this time (June) swarm so thick. The Island is much frequented by English, Dutch and French ships, that come purposely to salt up ye flesh of these Tortoises."

Jamaica was taken in 1655 and the Cayman Islands became a regular source of food supply for the soldiers and fleets of England cruising the Caribbean. Eventually, by the Treaty of Madrid in 1670, Jamaica was ceded to the British Crown and with it the Cayman Islands. There does not, however, appear to have been any serious settlement until the early part of the eighteenth century, although it is apparent that from time to time there were parties of residents chiefly composed of shipwrecked sailors, beachcombers and possibly marooned mariners. The earliest record of a grant of land being made to the first settlers is in 1734, following by further patents in 1741. The families of "Bodden" and "Foster" are in all probability direct descendants from these patentees, some of whom bore these names.

The origin of the name "Cayman" has been the subject of much speculation, a likely theory being that parties coming ashore from visiting ships in search of turtle named the islands after the caimans, or alligators, which they found thereon.

### Chapter 3 : Administration

In the early days of settlement, public affairs were administered by Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The Justices functioned under the direction of one of their number whom they themselves selected and who was styled "Governor". In 1832 the principal of representative government was accepted and elected members known as Vestrymen were added to the administrative body. At the same time the title "Custos" was substituted for that of "Governor".

An Act of Parliament, passed in 1863, provided for the ratification of all prior acts of the local body receiving the assent of the Government of Jamaica. Under this authority, twenty acts, passed between 1832 and 1864, were submitted to the Governor of Jamaica whose assent thereto was given in 1865. It was further provided in the Act that the

Justices and Vestry should continue to exercise legislative powers, their enactments being subject to the assent of the Governor of Jamaica. Under the same authority the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Dependency, and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed.

In 1898, the powers of the Custos were vested in a Commissioner who combines administrative duties with those of Judge of the Grand Court. He is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The seat of Government is at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, where the Commissioner resides.

The present Assembly of Justices and Vestry consists of the Commissioner as President, 28 Justices of the Peace and 27 Vestrymen.

The Justices of the Peace are commissioned in a General Commission of the Peace by the Governor of Jamaica, the latest Commission being dated the 12th of August, 1946, when 32 Justices of the Peace were appointed.

The election of Vestrymen is held every two years, and is governed by an Act of 1832 which provided that "upon requisition of the Custos or Senior Magistrate, the Magistrates in the district shall call the people together and proceed to elect Vestrymen to serve for two years". Whereas women would appear to be included in the electorate it has long been the practice for male taxpayers only to vote, the latter being defined in Law 5 of 1927, as "male persons between the ages of 18 and 60 years". The last election was held in August, 1948.

## Chapter 4 : Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are used throughout the Dependency.

## Chapter 5 : Newspapers and Periodicals

There are no newspapers or periodicals published in the Dependency.

## Chapter 6 : Bibliography

HIRST, Dr. GEORGE S. S., M.B., *Notes on the History of the Cayman Islands*. Published in Jamaica by Dr. Hirst, a former Commissioner of the Cayman Islands. Contains (in Part I) a short account of the history of the Islands, (in Part II) an account of various events and the settlement of the Islands from the year 1734 to the year 1800.

Part III is the history of the Dependency from the year 1800 to 1850.  
ARMSTRONG, D. B., *The Cayman Islands : Their Stamps and Post Office*.

Junior Philatelic Society, 1911.

LOWE, R. P., *Birds of the Cayman Islands*. Ibis, 1911.

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## GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

MATLEY, S. A., *Geology of the Cayman Islands*. (1926).

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SWABEY, CHRISTOPHER, and LEWIS, C. BERNARD. *Forestry in the Cayman Islands*. Development and Welfare in the West Indies. Bulletin No. 23.

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## PART I

### Review of the Years 1949 and 1950

#### FINANCE

AT the end of the financial year, 1949-50, for the first time in nine years the Dependency was faced with a small deficit. The actual revenue fell short of the estimate by just over £2,000, principally due to the relatively poor sales of the Cayman Islands stamps of the Universal Postal Union commemorative issue. Receipts under the other principal head of revenue, customs, exceeded the estimate by over £3,000 but this excess was absorbed by considerable unforeseen expenditure of an essential nature, principally on certain public works.

The financial picture at the close of the year 1950, however, was encouraging and it is estimated that there will be a surplus of over £12,000 on 31st March, 1951. This favourable position is due in part to the excellent sales of the new issue of Cayman Islands postage and revenue stamps which were released in October, 1950. Furthermore, though there was no increase in the rates of duty, it is anticipated that receipts from import duty and tonnage tax will reach over £25,000, the highest in the history of the Dependency.

It is estimated that revenue from all sources during the financial year 1950-51 will total £59,863 as against expenditure of £47,474. It is of interest to compare these figures with those for the year 1930 when revenue totalled £6,466 and expenditure £6,228.

#### EXPORTS

There was considerable improvement in the overseas turtle market during the years 1949 and 1950 and the value of the export of live Green Turtle rose from £7,042 in 1948 to £12,507 in 1950. There was a corresponding increase in the export of turtle skin.

The steady progress made within recent years by the thatch rope Industry was maintained. In 1950 2,120,750 fathoms of rope were shipped to Jamaica, this being the greatest quantity ever exported from the Dependency. By arrangement between the Governments of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands the price was increased during 1950 and the value of this export rose from £7,120 in 1949 to £12,762 in 1950.

The value of all exports during 1949 and 1950 amounted to £22,764 and £37,619 respectively as compared with the 1940 figure of £9,675.

### SEAMEN

The remittances made by seamen of the Cayman Islands to their dependants has a considerable effect on the economy of the Dependency, and a pleasing feature of the years 1949 and 1950 was the increase in the number of men obtaining employment in capacities varying from masters to ordinary seamen and from chief engineers to firemen on vessels of many nations, but particularly those flying the flags of the North and Central American republics.

### TOURIST INDUSTRY

A small but up-to-date hotel on the west coast of Grand Cayman was completed in December, 1950, and it is anticipated that the Dependency will be visited by a number of tourists during the 1950-51 season.

Several citizens of the United States of America have bought land in Grand Cayman in order to build winter homes there.

### AGRICULTURE

With the aid of a free grant made under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts a demonstration farm has been established near Georgetown, Grand Cayman. For this and co-related purposes an Agricultural Instructor has been seconded to the Dependency from the Department of Agriculture of Jamaica for a period of three years.

Several school gardens have already been established and it is hoped soon to form 4-H Clubs in the various districts.

Attention is also being given to the improvement of cattle and poultry in the Dependency and the combating of plants pests and diseases.

### TURTLE INDUSTRY

As stated above, there was some improvement in the turtle industry during the years 1949 and 1950. However, to put the industry on a firmer basis the Colonial Development Corporation was approached in 1949 with the suggestion that a turtle cannery be established in Grand Cayman. The proposition was viewed favourably by the Corporation and negotiations have proceeded satisfactorily. It is hoped that they will have been completed by early 1951.

### MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Because of the increase in building costs it was found that the original grant made late in 1947 under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts to enable a new hospital to be built at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, was inadequate and a supplementary grant had to be sought. This supplementary grant was approved during 1950. The site of the new hospital has already been purchased and a road built

to it. It is anticipated that work on the 28-bed hospital and subsidiary buildings will begin early in 1951.

During 1950 the interiors of all houses in Grand Cayman were sprayed with D.D.T. in an effort to eradicate the disease-carrying mosquitoes. The campaign will be continued in 1951 when it is hoped to extend it to include both Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. The scheme is being financed with the aid of Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

#### EDUCATION

The Education Officer, assisted by an inspector of schools and an assistant inspector of schools from Jamaica, successfully ran a teachers' refresher course in August, 1950.

Within recent years the teaching staff of the Dependency has been strengthened by the appointment of four teachers who successfully completed 3-year courses at teachers' training colleges in Jamaica. Selected candidates were awarded scholarships provided by the Cayman Islands Government. This policy is being continued and at the end of 1950 two other candidates were in training in Jamaica.

#### DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE

The following grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts were approved by the Secretary of State for the Colonies during 1949 and 1950 :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Amount</i>
1949 ..	No. D1213. Mosquito Control. To enable the spraying of the interiors of all houses with D.D.T. with a view to eradicating of the "domestic" malaria- and yellow-fever-carrying mosquitoes. The spraying is to be carried out annually for three years .. .. ..	£500
1949 ..	No. D1218. Agricultural Development. To include the establishment of a demonstration farm at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, school-gardens, 4-H Clubs, secondment for 3 years of an Agricultural Instructor from the Jamaica Department of Agriculture, purchase of bulls for improvement of cattle, improvement of poultry, and control of plant diseases and pests .. .. .. .. ..	£6,978

<i>Year</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Amount</i>
	No. D1252. Schools, Cayman Brac. To cover the cost of the erection at Cayman Brac of two schools, one to serve the children of the Western Districts and one for those of the Eastern Districts .. .. .. ..	£6,931
1950 ..	No. D1791. Road, South Coast, Cayman Brac. To enable a road to be constructed along the south coast of Cayman Brac primarily to enable the further development of the coconut industry in that area .. ..	£3,000
	No. D742 (Supplementary). Medical and Public Health. Supplementary provision required to cover the increased building costs of the proposed new 28-bed hospital to be erected at Georgetown, Grand Cayman ..	£23,707

## GENERAL

1949

Mr. D. C. MacGillivray, C.M.G., M.B.E., newly-appointed Colonial Secretary of Jamaica, paid a short official visit to the Dependency in January.

On his way both to and from British Honduras by plane the Right Honourable Lord Trefgarne, lately Chairman of the Colonial Development Corporation, paid two brief visits to Grand Cayman in connection with the proposal to erect a turtle cannery in that Island.

Dr. C. F. Hickling, C.M.G., Fisheries Adviser to the Secretary of State, accompanied by Mr. E. W. March, Conservator of Forests of Jamaica, paid a five-day visit to Grand Cayman in March to investigate the possibilities of the development of the fishing industry in the Cayman Islands.

The Chief Engineer, Hydraulics, of the Public Works Department of Jamaica arrived in Grand Cayman in mid-May to advise on the water supply of Grand Cayman. He subsequently submitted a very informative report.

The Director of Medical Services and the Deputy Director of Agriculture, both of Jamaica, and the Director of Civil Aviation in the West Indies paid short official visits to the Dependency during the year.

Mr. T. W. Farrington, J.P., and Mr. E. O. Panton, M.B.E., J.P., represented the Dependency as Observers at the final meeting of the Standing Closer Association Committee held in Jamaica in October, 1949.

## 1950

The newly-appointed Deputy Colonial Secretary of Jamaica, Mr. J. W. H. O'Regan, paid a visit to the Dependency during April.

A Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department of Jamaica, visited Grand Cayman in March to advise on the repair and reconstruction of roads in the Dependency.

During the year investigations in connection with the "Bud-rot" and "Unknown" diseases of coconut palms in Grand Cayman were carried out by the plant pathologist (coconuts), Department of Agriculture, Jamaica, and an agricultural chemist from the same Department visited the Dependency to obtain samples of the phosphatic deposits which occur in each of the three Islands. The deposits were shown to be of poor quality.

The Dependency was visited for the first time in its recorded history by a detachment from a British Regiment during December. A detachment of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, comprising two officers and 45 other ranks, arrived in the Dependency on 10th December and left on the 18th. The drums and pipes of the detachment played in all the Districts of both Cayman Brac and Grand Cayman and the visit was an outstanding success.

*Staff*

The salaries of all Government officers were regraded as from 1st April, 1950. The principal feature of the revision of salaries was the absorption into the various salary scales of the cost-of-living allowance which for many years past had been paid to all officers.

## PART II

### Chapter 1: Population

THE earliest record relates to the year 1774 when the total population was estimated at 176 persons. By the year 1802, when the census was taken by an officer specially deputed for that purpose by the Governor of Jamaica, the total had risen to 933 of whom 545 were slaves. The figures for 1891, 1911, 1921 and 1934 were 4,322, 5,564, 5,253 and 6,009 respectively.

A census of Jamaica and its Dependencies financed by His Majesty's Government and directed by Mr. A. J. Pelletier, F.S.S., Chief of Census, Canadian Bureau of Statistics, was taken in January, 1943. This, in addition to population, embraced both housing and agriculture. The method employed on this occasion provided for the enumeration of the considerable number of men absent at sea and abroad.

The census of 1943 showed the population of the Dependency to be 6,670, which is the highest in its history, and which represents an increase of 11 per cent over the figure recorded in 1934. The detailed figures are as follows :

	<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Total</i>
Grand Cayman	2,322	..	2,989	..	5,311
Cayman Brac	604	..	692	..	1,296
Little Cayman	29	..	34	..	63
	2,955	..	3,715	..	6,670

Of a total population of 6,670, roughly classified according to racial origin, 1,052 are of African, 3,518 of mixed, and 2,100 of European descent.

This census revealed the number of males per 100 females to be 80, as against 70 in 1934 and 73 in 1921. On both the earlier occasions, however, absent males were not taken into account.

The birth and death rates per 1,000 population and the infantile mortality rate per 1,000 births during the years 1945-50 were as follows :

		<i>Births</i>		<i>Deaths</i>		<i>Infantile Mortality</i>
1945	..	17.59	..	14.0	..	14
1946	..	17.58	..	6.62	..	33
1947	..	21.43	..	7.24	..	19.87
1948	..	21.13	..	8.22	..	6.25
1949	..	22.61	..	7.17	..	1.83
1950	..	26.78	..	7.84	..	35.35

The figures for migration during the period 1945-50 were :

			<i>Inward</i>		<i>Outward</i>		<i>Plus or Minus</i>
1945	..	..	735	..	698	..	+ 37
1946	..	..	872	..	754	..	+118
1947	..	..	1,123	..	1,370	..	-247
1948	..	..	903	..	1,141	..	-238
1949	..	..	1,285	..	1,432	..	-147
1950	..	..	1,527	..	1,717	..	-190

## Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisations

No labour statistics are available other than those prepared in connection with the 1943 Census, but as there has been little change since then, the following figures are indicative of the present position :

<i>Group</i>	<i>Gainfully occupied Population</i>	<i>Population</i>		
		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Agriculture</i>	..	..	264	24 288
<i>Fishing</i>	..	..	63	— 63
<i>Manufacturing :</i>				
Foreman, bakers, blacksmiths, boot and shoe repairers, cabinet makers, dressmakers, tailors, mechanics, sawyers, etc.	..	..	51	390 441
<i>Construction</i>	..	..	127	— 127
<i>Transportation and Communication :</i>				
Seamen, radio operators, captains, mates, engineers, telephone operators, truck drivers, etc.	..	..	678	— 678
<i>Trade :</i>				
Owners, managers, agents, brokers, store clerks, etc.	..	..	71	54 125
<i>Services :</i>				
(a) <i>Professional</i> —				
Chemists, physicians, dentists, nurses, teachers, engineers, Clergymen, etc.	..	..	17	40 57
(b) <i>Public</i> —				
Government officers, policemen, postmistresses, postal carriers, etc.			11	1 12

(c) <i>Personal</i>							
Barbers, hairdressers, barkeepers, cleaners, cooks, domestic servants, laundresses, etc.	..	..	..	56	421	477	
(d) <i>Clerical</i>	..	..	..	14	7	21	
(e) <i>Labourers</i>	..	..	..	236	6	242	
All Occupations	..	..	..	1,588	943	2,531	

#### RATES OF PAY

As will be seen from the above a large number of the men of the Cayman Islands, between the ages of 20 and 50, are serving as seamen in various capacities on vessels plying all over the world and receive wages ranging from £20 to £90 per month. Labourers are paid at the rate of 9s. to 10s. per day, stevedores at 1s. 6d. an hour, shipwrights and carpenters from 25s. to 40s. and painters from 15s. to 20s. per day. Female shop assistants are paid an average of £5 per month and domestic servants from 30s. to 60s. per month with partial board. In the straw rope industry women supply the greater part of the labour and their earnings average about 15s. a week.

In most industries and trades there is a 40-hour working week with the exception of shop assistants and store clerks who work a 45-hour week.

#### COST OF LIVING

The staple diet of the inhabitants is flour or corn meal, supplemented by meat (fresh or salt), fish (fresh or salt) and locally grown ground provisions. The controlled prices of the following commodities at the end of 1950 were : flour, 8d. to 8½d. per lb. ; corn meal, 7½d. per lb. ; sugar, 5d. per lb. ; fresh beef, 1s. 3d. per lb. ; fresh pork, 1s. 3d. per lb. ; salt beef, 2s. per lb. ; fresh fish, 1s. per lb. ; salt fish, 2s. 3d. per lb. ; beans, 1s. 5d. per lb. ; rice, 9½d. to 1s. 3d. per lb. ; kerosene, 2s. 3d. per gallon ; matches, 1d. per box ; tobacco leaf, 7s. per lb. ; and cigarettes 1s. per packet of 20.

A comparison of the 1939 prices of a number of items of food, clothing and hardware with those now obtaining indicates that prices have risen over 200 per cent, but without a survey being carried out it is impossible to make any accurate statement as to the increase in the cost of living.

The cost of running a house for an European married couple including messing, servants' wages, laundry, rent of furnished house (£10 to £12), lighting (£1), and a moderate amount of entertaining would be not less than £60 per month. The rates at the hotels in Georgetown, Grand Cayman, vary from 28s. to 35s. a day and at the

guest houses from 18s. to 20s. a day. The rates at the new hotel on the beach on the west coast of Grand Cayman are as follows : single rooms, 6 guineas ; double rooms, 4 guineas a day for each person.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

The Trade Union Law of 1942 provided for the formation, registration, rights, powers and control of trade unions, but up to the end of 1948 no trade union had been registered. In December, 1946, the Minimum Wage Law was passed and Regulations made thereunder were approved by the Governor in July, 1947. This law gives powers to fix a minimum wage for employees where the wages paid in any particular occupation or trade are unreasonably low. No orders have as yet been made under this law.

There is no factory legislation or legislative provision for sickness, old age, etc., but the introduction of a Workmen's Compensation Law is under consideration.

### Chapter 3 : Public Finance and Taxation

#### REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The following table gives the revenue and expenditure of the Dependency for the last ten years :

		Revenue		Expenditure
		£		£
1940	..	7,988	..	10,354
1941	..	12,803	..	11,924
1942-43	..	18,925	..	12,703
1943-44	..	27,932	..	22,137
1944-45	..	21,155	..	28,533*
1945-46	..	29,380	..	23,106
1946-47	..	31,200	..	28,950
1947-48	..	34,375	..	31,890
1948-49	..	40,565	..	34,078
1949-50	..	36,936	..	38,958

\*Includes £8,000 placed to Reserve Funds.

It should be noted that at the end of 1941 the financial year was altered so as to commence on 1st April and end on 31st March.

#### PUBLIC DEBT

The following table shows the position in regard to loans on 31st December, 1950 :

<i>Designation and Amount of Loan</i>	<i>Balance Outstanding on 31st December, 1950</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Hurricane Loan, 1933 £3,600 3%	£1,533	Repayable to Government of Jamaica in 20 years from 1st April, 1938.
Public Works Loan, 1938 £6,500 3½%	£3,479	Repayable to Government of Jamaica in 20 years from 1st April, 1940.

The former loan was incurred to repair the damage caused by the hurricane of 1932 and the latter to erect public buildings.

#### RESERVE FUNDS

On 31st December, 1950, the Reserve Fund of the Dependency stood at £31,650. On the same date, the Hurricane Fund, which is designed to relieve distress occasioned by hurricane, stood at £2,346. These sums are invested in British Dominion and Colonial securities held by the Crown Agents for the Colonies, all interest accruing from them being re-invested.

During 1947 the Dependency invested the sum of £5,000 from surplus funds in Jamaica treasury bills. These bills are redeemable every three months and bear interest at the rate of 3 per cent.

#### TAXATION

The two main sources of revenue are import duties and the sale of stamps ; the yields during the past eight years have been as follows :

	<i>Import Duties</i>	<i>Sale of Stamps</i>
	£	£
1942-43 ..	8,892	.. 6,316
1943-44 ..	9,725	.. 13,892
1944-45 ..	11,591	.. 5,375
1945-46 ..	12,997	.. 11,793
1946-47 ..	14,208	.. 13,443
1947-48 ..	16,602	.. 11,680
1948-49 ..	19,223	.. 16,681
1949-50 ..	20,001	.. 10,955

There is a tax on vehicles, bicycles, cattle, horses, dogs, firearms, boats, etc., and light dues and warehouse fees are collectable. There is no income tax, land tax or estate duty.

## CUSTOMS TARIFF

Under the Customs Tariff Law the majority of articles imported into the Dependency are subject to an *ad valorem* duty of 12½ per cent, cost, insurance and freight being taken into account at arriving at the value of the dutiable articles. There is a preferential and a general tariff for some articles such as aerated waters, beer, butter, margarine, bicycles, cement, hardware, spirits, wines, tea and tobacco. Duty under the preferential tariff is in the main at a rate of 12½ per cent *ad valorem* and under the General Tariff at a rate of 20 per cent *ad valorem*. The Second Schedule of the Tariff Law, 1935, lists a number of articles which are admitted free of duty, e.g. articles for the Navy, Army and Air Force or for the Commissioner, artificial limbs, advertising material, bullion and coin, wire screen cloth and mosquito netting, etc.

## TONNAGE TAX

The Tonnage Tax Law, 1947, came into effect on 1st January, 1948. Under this law a tonnage tax, computed on the gross weight, is imposed on all articles imported into the Cayman Islands for use therein. The rates of duty vary from 3d. to 6d. per package of not more than 100 lb. gross weight, the tax on gasoline is 1s. per 50 gallons, on lumber 5s. per 1,000 feet superficial measurement, on shingles 2s. per 1,000, on tiles, slates and roofing material 5s. per 1,000, and on metals 2s. per cwt.

## EXCISE AND STAMP DUTIES

There is no excise duty. Under Law 9 of 1906 stamp duty ranging from 1d. to £2 2s. is payable on the several instruments and documents mentioned in the schedule to the law. These include agreements, bills of exchange, conveyances, deeds, leases, mortgages, passports and receipts for money paid.

## POLL TAX

A personal tax of 8s. a year is imposed on every male person between the ages of 18 years and 60 years.

## Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

## CURRENCY

British silver and copper together with Jamaica coins—penny, half-penny and farthing—are in circulation. Silver coins are legal tender up to 40 shillings, and copper coins up to one shilling.

Government of Jamaica notes of the denominations of £5, £1, 10s. and 5s. and a decreasing number of notes issued by private banks are in circulation. Currency notes and bank notes are unlimited legal tender.

## BANKING

No banking facilities are available save those afforded by the Government Savings Bank which conducts business at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac. The bank was established in 1908, the branch at Cayman Brac, being opened in 1934.

At the end of 1941 there were 478 open accounts and the amount standing to the credit of depositors, inclusive of interest, was £15,158. The corresponding figures at the end of March, 1950, were 1,570 and £116,829 respectively.

The steady growth of the bank during recent years is due to a great extent to the increase in remittances made by Caymanians overseas to their dependants in the Cayman Islands and also to the fact that the facilities offered by the Savings Bank are being increasingly appreciated by the public.

## Chapter 5: Commerce

The prosperity of the Dependency depends in no small measure on the remittances made by its menfolk serving abroad, principally in seafaring capacities. Other factors are the earnings of motor-schooners engaged in the turtle and shark fisheries, and in the Caribbean-Gulf carrying trade. Additional contributions arise from the periodic construction of schooners and other vessels for overseas delivery.

With few exceptions, all commodities required by the inhabitants of the Islands have to be imported. This is true even of foodstuffs as the supply of fresh fish, meat and locally grown ground provisions falls short of the demand. The total value of imports for the year 1950 was £199,950 as compared with £144,450 for 1949. The value and quantities of the main imports were as follows :

Commodity	1949		1950 (estimated)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	£	£	£	£
Flour (barrels) .. ..	2,756	7,378	.. ..	3,202 7,720
Corn meal (barrels) .. ..	369	1,329	.. ..	445 1,462
Rice (cwt.) .. ..	373	788	.. ..	359 1,344
Sugar (tons) .. ..	163	4,798	.. ..	240 8,246
Textiles and wearing apparel .. ..	—	7,686	.. ..	— 13,327
Oil : Petrol (gal.) .. ..	54,692	2,823	.. ..	62,612 5,099
Kerosene (gal.) .. ..	38,852	2,390	.. ..	44,616 3,534

The total value of exports during 1950 was £37,619 as compared with £22,764 for 1949. The main exports were as follows :

		1949		1950	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			£		£
Turtles (No.) ..	..	3,205	9,615	..	3,389
Rope ('000 fathoms) ..	..	1,424	7,120	..	2,121
Turtle skin (lb.) ..	..	11,653	2,860	..	15,039
Shark skin (lb.) ..	..	29,208	2,640	..	25,192

For a number of years the quantity of thatch rope produced and exported has remained fairly constant, but in 1950 the export of 2,120,750 fathoms was the highest on record. The value of this export has risen very considerably under Government control, the price per 1,000 fathoms having advanced from 30s. in 1941 to 110s. in 1950.

## Chapter 6 : Production

### AGRICULTURE

As no topographical survey of the Islands has ever been made it is difficult to estimate even approximately the total area of cultivable land. The pockets of loam which are found among the older limestone are of considerable fertility but the sandy wastes along the coastlines are of no agricultural value. In addition, because of the outcrop of decaying coral-limestone, it is doubtful whether there is an acre of land which could be ploughed without fatal results to the plough. Many of the islanders are keen agriculturists, taking a particular pride in their cattle and pastures. Though the Islands are capable of producing a wide range of tropical fruits and vegetables the total yield is, both in volume and variety, considerably below what it might be if agriculture were more diligently pursued. Insufficient produce is grown for local consumption, potatoes, beans, groundnuts and fruit being imported.

The Islands have in the past lacked agricultural guidance but an effort is now being made to encourage the farming population to use up-to-date farming practices and to attract more of the youth of the Dependency to agricultural pursuits. Greater production of foodstuffs and vegetables so as to improve the diet of the people is also being urged and special emphasis is being placed upon work among young people—the aim being to educate them to appreciate the fact that a livelihood can be earned from the resources of their own country. The immediate direction of this scheme—which includes the establishment of school gardens and the formation of 4-H Clubs—is under the direction of an Agricultural Instructor of the Department of Jamaica. A senior officer of this Department will pay periodic visits to the Dependency to supervise the programme.

A demonstration farm has been established at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and two Montgomery Jersey bulls have been obtained for the purpose of improving the strain of the local cattle.

The coconut industry in the Lesser Islands is progressing satisfactorily and it is anticipated that within the next three or four years it will be possible to export a large quantity of coconuts annually.

#### LIVESTOCK

The figures of livestock, as disclosed by the census of 1943, were as follows :

Horses ..	..	79
Donkeys ..	..	101
Cattle ..	..	1,858
Goats ..	..	118
Poultry ..	..	11,135
Pigs ..	..	397

The common pasturage for cattle is guinea grass which grows abundantly. The poultry which is raised consists almost entirely of fowls, the number of turkeys and ducks being negligible.

#### MINERALS

Phosphatic deposits were, from 1884 to 1890, worked commercially in all three Islands. The deposits are of low grade and small extent. A geological survey of the Islands was made in 1924 without, however, revealing any mineral deposits of commercial value.

#### FORESTRY

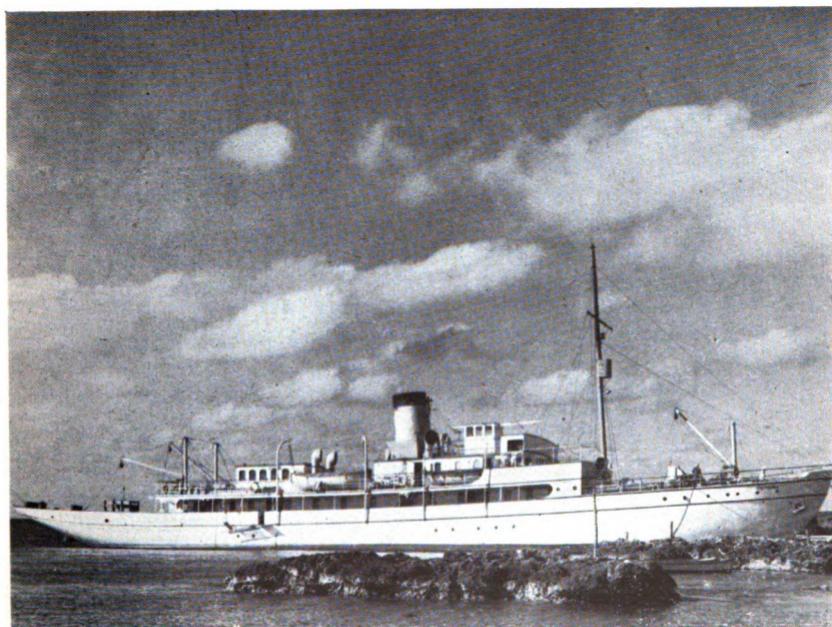
The principal forest products are mahogany and the thatch palm. The latter sustains the thatch rope industry, the Dependency's principal peasant industry, on which many of the poorest class are in large measure dependent for a living. The entire output of this commodity is absorbed by the Jamaica fishing industry. Mahogany is chiefly used in the building of schooners. It is also to be seen in public buildings and private houses. The export of mahogany from the Dependency has been controlled under emergency powers since 1942.

It is not possible to say with any degree of accuracy what the Dependency's resources are in these two products as no land survey of the Dependency has ever been made. In December, 1945, the Conservator of Forests, Jamaica, and the Curator of the Museum of that Island carried out a forestry survey of the Cayman Islands and in their report recommended that the general forest policy should be :

- (1) To conserve and develop the production of native timbers for shipbuilding, house construction and other purposes, and to limit wasteful production methods.
- (2) To conserve thatch palms for rope-making and other purposes.
- (3) To develop minor industries, such as furniture-making, and extend the uses of thatch.



GALLEON BEACH LODGE, GRAND CAYMAN



S.S. "CAYMANIA," GOVERNMENT SUBSIDISED VESSEL, LYING  
ALONGSIDE NATURAL HARBOUR AT GEORGETOWN, GRAND  
CAYMAN



*With acknowledgments to J. J. Steinmetz*

**AMPHIBIAN FLYING OVER WATER-FRONT AT GEORGETOWN,  
GRAND CAYMAN**



**WIRELESS STATION, GRAND CAYMAN**

It was further recommended that the first necessity was to carry out an aerial survey and a cadastral survey after which certain areas of unclaimed land, incapable of agricultural or other development, would be declared forest reserves and managed with a view to timber, fuel and thatch production.

The report stated that :

" Given adequate protection there is every reason to believe that natural regeneration of Mahogany and Thatch Palm will be sufficient to meet requirements on Grand Cayman. At a later date, it might be desirable to make studies in regeneration and growth of Mahogany and Thatch Palm at the Agricultural Station, for which we understand proposals are being made. If Forest Reserves are established it will obviously be desirable to draw up plans for their management."

#### FISHERIES

The deep-sea fishing, which constitutes one of the main industries of the Dependency, is operated by the wealthier merchants or the owners of schooners. Turtle and shark are taken on the banks, shoals and cays that lie off the coast of Honduras and Nicaragua. The live Green Turtle and the shark products are exported to the United States. Lobster caught off the banks find a ready market in the Canal Zone. The ship's company works on the share principle ; the owner of the vessel supplies the material for making nets, buoys, etc., while the crew prepare the nets and buoys and ready the vessel for sea. From the gross proceeds of the catch the sum payable to the Nicaraguan Government as royalty is deducted ; the balance is divided into the crew's share and the owner's share, from the former being deducted the cost of the stores supplied by the owner. Coastwise fishing is carried out by the small fishermen working in pairs. Their catch, which includes lobster, has a ready sale and the demand far exceeds the supply.

#### BOAT-BUILDING

During 1949 one yacht of 17 tons and one motor boat were completed and launched at Cayman Brac. One fishing smack of five tons was constructed at Grand Cayman.

In 1950 two yachts, one of 12 and one of 17 tons, were launched at Cayman Brac and towed to Jamaica where they were completed. At Grand Cayman a small motored fishing boat of approximately seven tons was completed and launched while another boat of similar size was launched and towed to Nicaragua for completion.

A fishing vessel of approximately 33 tons was at the end of 1950 nearing completion at Georgetown, Grand Cayman. This vessel is to be used in deep-sea fishing off the coast of British Columbia.

The industry employs local labour. Local hardwoods are generally used for "framing" the vessels while all planking and fittings must be obtained from abroad.

## Chapter 7: Social Services

### EDUCATION

Primary education is free and compulsory for all children between the ages of seven and fourteen and text-books and material are supplied free of charge. Control is exercised by a Board of Education which includes one member nominated by the Teachers' Association.

There are 12 primary schools in the Dependency, eight in Grand Cayman and four in Cayman Brac. A small establishment at Little Cayman provides for the few children of school age in that Island, the total population of which is now under 60 persons. The average attendance during 1950 was 753 with 929 children on the rolls.

The teaching staff consists of 11 men and 16 women teachers of whom eight (five men and three women) are certificated. In addition the Revenue Officer of Little Cayman performs the duties of teacher to the children of that Island.

There are four officially recognised private schools in the Dependency, three in Georgetown and one in West Bay, Grand Cayman. There are no technical or adult evening schools and the highest standard of education reached in the Cayman Islands is the Third Year Jamaica Local (or Pupil Teachers) Certificate. However, one of the private schools in Georgetown hopes by the end of 1951 to have a number of pupils ready to sit for the Senior Cambridge Examination.

The Government Medical Officer carries out routine medical inspection at all the schools, and during 1950 all school children were examined and a large number treated by the Government Dental Officer who was on secondment to the Dependency from Jamaica for six months.

### HEALTH

The Health Service of the Dependency consists of a medical officer, a dispenser, a health officer, two general and maternity nurses and two unqualified nurses. The dispenser is stationed at Cayman Brac, the remainder at Grand Cayman. There is also one private medical practitioner in Grand Cayman.

During 1947 the Secretary of State for the Colonies approved a grant of £20,100 under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act to enable the medical facilities of the Dependency to be improved. The following are the main provisions of the scheme :

- (a) the erection of a twenty-bed hospital at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, to serve the whole Dependency ;
- (b) the erection of quarters for an additional medical officer ;
- (c) the salary for a period of two years of a dispenser seconded from the Jamaica Medical Service ;
- (d) the salary of two nurses seconded from the Jamaica medical service for a period of two and four years respectively ;

- (e) the salary of two Caymanian nurses for four years ;
- (f) the salary of a dentist for 3 years ; and
- (g) dental equipment.

A supplementary grant of £23,707 was approved during 1950 to cover the estimated additional cost of constructing the hospital, costs of labour and material having risen very considerably since the original estimate was prepared ; the number of beds have also been increased. The detailed plans for the hospital have been prepared in Jamaica and it is anticipated that building will begin early in 1951.

### *Hospital and Dispensaries*

The small poorly-equipped hospital at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, continues to function, but because of the poor facilities available, it is necessary to send many patients to Jamaica, particularly those requiring to be X-rayed for diagnosis.

During 1950 there were 124 admissions at the hospital, 33 cases being surgical, 77 medical and 14 maternity. Out-patients numbered 4,358, of whom 2,040 received free treatment. In addition 677 visits were made to patients' homes, 311 patients were given free treatment.

<i>Total Births and Birth Rates, 1950</i>	<i>Grand Cayman</i>	<i>Lesser Islands</i>	<i>Total</i>
Births .. .. ..	165	33	198
Birth rate per 1,000 .. ..	28.84	19.74	26.78
<i>Total Deaths and Death Rates, 1950</i>			
Deaths .. .. ..	47	11	58
Death rate per 1,000 .. ..	8.21	6.58	7.84

### *Infant Mortality, 1950*

Live Births .. .. ..	165	33	198
Death of Babies under 1 year of age .. .. ..	5	2	7
Infant Mortality per 1,000 .. ..	30.30	60.60	35.35

### *Venereal Diseases*

During 1950 the number of cases treated were as follows :

Syphilis .. .. ..	17
Gonorrhœa and Pelvic Inflammatory Disease .. ..	81

### *Pulmonary Tuberculosis*

There were two deaths from this disease during the year 1950. In 1948 tuberculin patch tests of practically all the children in Grand Cayman between the ages of 6 and 14 years, approximately 800, gave slightly less than 2.5 per cent positive reactions. In view of the low incidence of tuberculous infection in the population and in order to

improve their resistance against the tuberculous germ, immunisation by B.C.G. vaccination is being considered. This is even more important because there is the possibility that the many Caymanians who go abroad may contract the disease and return home to infect others.

#### *Dental Treatment*

A dental surgeon from the Public Hospital, Kingston, Jamaica, was seconded to the Dependency from July to December, 1950. The Government Dental Officer also spent the greater part of his period of secondment in Grand Cayman but paid a visit lasting six weeks to Cayman Brac.

It was found that on the whole the teeth of the inhabitants, adults and children, were in poor condition and this was put down to the fact that the diet of the people is principally carbohydrate, while the water consumed is for the most part rain-water collected in tanks and cisterns.

The Government Dental Officer recommended that a qualified dental officer be appointed to carry out a programme of dental care and education for a period of three years ; that a survey be made as to the possibility of improving the qualities of the cistern water used for drinking purposes ; that improvement of diet be urged, especially the encouragement of a wider consumption of milk, vegetables and fruits.

#### *Hygiene and Sanitation*

Sanitation in the Dependency remains unsatisfactory though some improvement in Grand Cayman has been effected during recent years. A large number of households are without latrines and in many cases where latrines do exist they are in an insanitary condition. The Board of Health, of which the Government Medical Officer and the Health Officer are members, is making every effort to impress on the people the seriousness of the situation and to obtain their co-operation in effecting the necessary improvement.

Because of the presence of mosquitoes in large numbers during many months of the year the doors and windows of the many unscreened houses have to be kept shut with the result that there is complete lack of ventilation.

#### *Maternity and Child Welfare*

Every expectant mother was offered free examination and advice throughout pregnancy and many women took advantage of this service.

#### HOUSING

The Dependency as a whole is well housed. Wooden dwellings predominate though the recent trend is towards more substantial and durable concrete structures. The wooden houses are generally built

on hard-wood piles which raise them a couple of feet above ground level. They are roofed with either wooden tiles or corrugated iron, the roof serving as a catchment for rain water which is stored in cement tanks or galvanised drums. For the kitchen and the latrine, which are generally built a short distance away from the main building, roofs made of the thatch palm are often preferred in the out-of-town districts.

Many of these wooden dwellings are attractively designed and have a generous piece of ground around them which is generally, and noticeably so in the case of the West Bay settlement, laid out with fruit trees, flowering shrubs and flowers. In the Eastern District the typically local style of houses framed in local hardwoods and walled with lime mortar and wattles are seen. Practically every house is owned by the occupier. The principal improvement required is in sanitary arrangements and, as stated earlier in this report, the Board of Health is encouraging householders to improve the existing facilities.

The census of 1943 covered in detail the question of housing and the figures then recorded revealed that 1,281 houses accommodated on an average 5.2 persons per house as compared with the 1934 census figures of 1,246 houses with an average of 4.69 persons per house.

There are building societies in the Dependency and there is no tax on house property.

#### SOCIAL WELFARE

Poor relief is administered through a society of voluntary workers which receives an annual grant from public funds. Mental cases are sent to the Mental Hospital in Jamaica, the cost of their maintenance being met from the funds of the Dependency.

The Public Library at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is housed in a commodious and attractive concrete building. An annual grant for its maintenance is made from public funds. There is also a small library at West Bay, Grand Cayman, and boxes of books and magazines are circulated to the principal districts of Grand Cayman and to Cayman Brac.

The Girls' Guildry Movement, an undenominational organisation formed in Grand Cayman late in 1946, continued its activities throughout 1949 and 1950 and had its first Carnival in May of the latter year.

The Cayman Islands Boy Scout Association late in 1949 decided to affiliate with the Jamaica Boy Scout Association and this has led to considerable expansion of the Boy Scout Movement in Grand Cayman during 1950. There are now Sea Scout Troops at Georgetown, Boddentown, West Bay and Northside, and in addition the Wolf Cub Pack at Georgetown, which has been in existence for many years, continued its activities.

The East End Citizens' Association, formed in 1935 by the male residents of East End, is run on co-operative lines and has achieved considerable success in getting the people of the district to work together to their mutual advantage.

A similar organisation, the Cayman Pioneer Club, was formed at Boddentown in 1947. Great interest is being manifested by the inhabitants of that district in the club which has as its principal objects the encouragement of communal activities, both social and industrial.

The Seamen's Association of West Bay, Grand Cayman, was organised during 1949 and its membership has grown steadily since then. There is also a Boys' Club in that district.

Moving pictures are shown regularly in the Town Halls at Georgetown, West Bay and Boddentown, Grand Cayman, and in a building at West End, Cayman Brac, but there is no modern picture house in the Dependency.

There is a great lack of recreational facilities throughout the Dependency but the playing of organised games is being encouraged in the schools.

## Chapter 8: Legislation

The more important legislation enacted during 1949 and 1950 was as follows :

1949. The Customs Consolidation (Amendment) Law, No. 4 of 1949, enables the Collector of Customs to permit any person to import without payment of duty any goods imported for temporary use only. Government officers assigned for duty in the Dependency from any other Colony are also entitled to import into the Cayman Islands free of duty one motor vehicle, provided customs duty has already been paid upon the vehicle in the Colony from which he was assigned.

1950. The Pioneer Industries (Encouragement) Law, No. 1 of 1950, seeks to encourage the establishment and development of new industries in the Cayman Islands, and grants certain relief from customs duty and tonnage tax to persons establishing factories in connection with such industries. Under the Schedule attached to the Law the following articles are exempt from duty : all building materials, tools, plant machinery, pipes, pumps, conveyor belts, or other appliances and materials necessary for and used in the construction, alteration and extension of the factory or for equipping the factory or any extension thereof for the manufacture and preparation for sale by the pioneer manufacturer of the relevant pioneer product.

The Hotels Aid Law, No. 5 of 1950, repealed a law on similar lines enacted in 1937 which was not considered to be sufficiently comprehensive. The Law enables relief in respect of customs duties and tonnage tax to be granted to persons who expend monies upon the construction, extension or equipment of hotels in the Cayman Islands and for purposes incidental or connected therewith. In the Law "hotel" means any building or series of buildings containing or intended to contain, when complete, not less than ten bedrooms for the accommodation for reward of guests. The Law expires on 31st December, 1953.

The Mosquito Control Law, No. 6 of 1950, gave authority for any duly authorised officer at all reasonable times to enter any premises or building for the purpose of applying any approved insecticide in such premises or building, and to apply such insecticide.

The Marine Industry (Import) Duty and Tonnage Tax (Relief) Law, No. 7 of 1950, was enacted with the object of encouraging the ship and boat-building industry in the Dependency by refunding import duty and tonnage tax paid on imported building materials and accessories used in the building and equipping of ships and boats. The Law expires on 31st December, 1952.

The Pension Law, No. 8 of 1950, provides for the grant and regulation of pensions, gratuities and other allowances in respect of the Public Service Officers in the Cayman Islands. This measure repealed the Pension Law, No. 4 of 1914, and amendments made thereto. The principal purpose of the new legislation is to bring the pension law of the Dependency into line with accepted modern practice.

## Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

### JUSTICE

The Courts of the Dependency are as follows :

The Grand Court of the Cayman Islands.

The Quarterly Petty Court.

The Petty Sessions Court.

*The Grand Court*, constituted by Act 3, of 1889, sections 5 to 8 (Cayman Islands) and Chap. 493 of Jamaica Laws Revised Edition, is presided over by the Commissioner who is the Judge by virtue of his office as Commissioner J.R.E., Chap. 491, Section 3). The Court sits twice a year in June and December, and has jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters as follows :

(a) In civil matters where the amount claimed exceeds £10 whether arising from tort or from contract or from both, bankruptcy, equity, and probate and administration ;

(b) In criminal matters as set out in Section 210, Chap. 493 (J.R.E.).

In cases of capital felony it is provided by Section 5, Chap. 491 (J.R.E.) that it shall not be lawful for the Commissioner to preside at the trial and a Judge from Jamaica is always sent to the Dependency for this purpose.

There is a right of appeal from any judgement, decree or order of the Grand Court, to the Supreme Court of Jamaica as set out in section 201, Chap. 493, and Chap. 494 (J.R.E.)

*The Quarterly Petty Court*, constituted by Act 3, of 1889, Section 3, is presided over by two Justices of the Peace and the jurisdiction of this court extends to actions whether arising from tort or from contract or from both, and trespass to lands, when the debt or damages claimed shall not exceed the sum of £10, and in which there is no question of

the title to real estate involved. This court under Section 4 also has the power to try all cases in which disputes have arisen relative to the boundaries of lands or plantations of which it is necessary to have view. Jurisdiction may be exercised by one Justice and a jury of not more than five nor less than three persons.

*The Petty Sessions Court* is presided over by two Justices of the Peace. This court deals with minor offences, and preliminary examinations in indictable offences. Appeals from the Quarterly Petty Court and from the Petty Sessions Court are provided for in the Cayman Islands Appeal Regulations Law, Law 5 of 1918.

#### *Grand Court Sessions, 1949 and 1950*

The June and December Sessions, 1949, were presided over by Resident Magistrates of Jamaica appointed by the Governor as Judges of the Grand Court. In all eight criminal cases, 11 civil suits and five judgement summons were disposed of. Among the criminal cases a sentence of three years was imposed for breaking and entering the Post Office and Treasury and one of three months for unlawful wounding. In one case of larceny and one of wounding the accused were bound over for a period of 12 months, while in one case of larceny of a fishpot the two accused were fined £10 each.

As in 1949 the June and December Sessions, 1950, were presided over by Resident Magistrates of Jamaica. In all 16 criminal cases, 15 civil actions and one judgement summons were disposed of at the two sessions. Fines were imposed in one case of larceny and receiving, three of assault and one of larceny from person. In one case of larceny of cattle a sentence of four months imprisonment with hard labour was imposed. There were six cases against young persons of ages ranging from 13 to 19 years and in each case the accused was bound over, the periods ranging from 12 months to two years.

#### POLICE

The Police Force consists of one inspector, two sergeants, one lance-corporal and 11 constables. One sergeant and two constables are stationed at Cayman Brac. There are, in addition, four district constables who function in cases of emergency and who receive a small allowance for their services.

#### PRISONS

There is a small gaol at Georgetown, a concrete building with six cells opening on to a small courtyard. It is used for prisoners with short sentences and those sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment with hard labour for a term of six months or upwards who are awaiting transfer to the General Penitentiary in Jamaica.

## Chapter 10: Public Utilities

Only Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is provided with electricity and this is supplied by a private company, the Cayman Electric Light and Power Company. Power is turned on one hour before sunset and off at midnight.

## Chapter 11: Communications

### ROADS AND VEHICLES

Of the 50 miles of motorable roads in the Dependency, 40 are in Grand Cayman and 10 in Cayman Brac. Little Cayman is served by footpaths only. In Grand Cayman, the principal road, approximately 30 miles in length, closely follows the line of the coast from Boatswain Bay on the north-west, through West Bay, Georgetown and Boddentown to East End on the south-east coast. This embraces all the larger settlements with the exception of Northside which is served by a branch road which takes in Old May Bay and joins the main road on the south coast at Frank Sound.

The roads are for the most part surfaced with a mixture of limestone, marl and coral-sand. There are no tar-treated roads. As the Dependency possesses only one mechanical roller the consolidation of the surface of the roads is mainly a manual operation performed with rammers made of local hardwood. The country traversed by these roads is uniformly level thus rendering extremely difficult any satisfactory system of drainage, and as a consequence considerable damage is done during periods of heavy and persistent rains.

There are no regular omnibus services in operation in Grand Cayman but a number of motor vehicles make regular journeys from the country districts to the capital carrying passengers, firewood, thatch rope and agricultural produce, and carrying stores and passengers on the return journey. In Cayman Brac two lorries have been converted into omnibuses and maintain a regular service from end to end of that island. There are 83 privately-owned motor cars and 26 trucks and station wagons in the Dependency and bicycles are extensively used.

### AIR SERVICES

A weekly seaplane service between Jamaica and Grand Cayman, was inaugurated in June, 1948, by Caribbean International Airways, Limited. During 1949 the service was extended to Tampa, Florida, and in 1950 to Belize, British Honduras. The Company receives a subsidy from the Cayman Islands Government. The improvement in transportation facilities has been greatly welcomed by the people of the Dependency.

## SHIPPING AND STEAMSHIP SERVICES

The total number of merchant vessels which called at the ports of Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and at Cayman Brac was 249, representing a net tonnage of 80,916, in 1949, and 201, representing a net tonnage of 69,078, in 1950. The Dependency is not served by any steamship line, contact with the outside world being maintained by means of a steam-vessel, two small motor-vessels and a number of schooners which are fitted with auxiliary engines. The s.s. *Caymania*, a vessel of 730 tons, owned and operated by the Cayman Islands Shipping Company, Limited, maintains a three-weekly passenger, mail and cargo service between Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Belize, British Honduras. On both the outward and inward voyages the s.s. *Caymania* calls at Cayman Brac, Little Cayman and Grand Cayman. The operating company is subsidised by the Governments of both Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. The motor-vessels and schooners ply fairly frequently, but at irregular intervals, between Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, British Honduras, Cuba and the Gulf Port of Tampa, Florida.

## PORT FACILITIES, GEORGETOWN

Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is the principal port of the Dependency. The anchorage area, in which there is ample depth of water for ocean-going vessels, is approximately half-a-mile north to south by a quarter of a mile east to west. Port facilities are poor. Vessels of shallow draught are able to use a small natural wharf of some 75 feet in length alongside which the depth at low water varies from eight to 12 feet. A small transit shed adjoins the wharf. There is no lighterage service and there are no bunkering facilities.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

No cable communication exists and there are no inland telegraphs.

There is a wireless station at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, with a range of 1,000 miles and a smaller station at Cayman Brac with a range of 150 miles. Both stations work fixed schedules daily with Jamaica and messages are transmitted between Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac twice daily. The station at Grand Cayman also transmits meteorological reports to Havana, Cuba, every morning and evening.

Telephone systems are in operation in both Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac but there are no private subscribers.

## PART III

### Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

#### GEOGRAPHY

THE Cayman Islands, a Dependency of Jamaica, consist of three islands—Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman—which lie in the Caribbean Sea between  $19^{\circ} 15'$  and  $19^{\circ} 45'$  north latitude and  $79^{\circ} 44'$  and  $31^{\circ} 27'$  west longitude. The islands are projecting peaks of the Cayman Ridge, a range of submarine mountains continuous with the Sierra Maestra Range of Cuba and running west to the Mysterious Bank in the direction of British Honduras.

Grand Cayman, which is situated about 180 miles west-north-west of the westernmost point of Jamaica and about 150 miles south of Cuba, is roughly 22 miles long from east to west with a maximum width of about 8 miles. Its most striking topographical feature is the shallow reef-protected harbour of North Sound which is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles long by 6 miles wide and which almost cuts the island into two parts. The area of Grand Cayman is approximately 76 square miles. The island is divided into six districts, viz., Georgetown (population 1,462), West Bay (population 1,866), Prospect (population 414), Bodden Town (population 618), Northside (population 387) and East End (population 564).

Cayman Brac, which lies 69 miles north-east of Grand Cayman, is the most elevated and the most striking in appearance. It is about 12 miles in length, with an average width of a little over a mile and an area of approximately 14 square miles. Cayman Brac is divided into four districts : Stake Bay, West End, Creek and Spot Bay.

Little Cayman, 5 miles to the westward of Cayman Brac, is 10 miles long with a maximum width of 2 miles and an area of about 10 square miles. Little Cayman is divided into two districts : South Town and Jacksons.

In his *Geology of the Cayman Islands*, Dr. C. A. Matley, D.Sc., F.G.S., describes the islands as follows :

"All the islands are low-lying, and do not attain anywhere a height of more than 60 feet above sea-level, except Cayman Brac, the eastern end of which rises to 140 feet. Viewed from the sea, they have a general resemblance to the flat-topped islands of the Bahama group. They are formed entirely of calcareous rocks, which the present survey has shown to be separably into two formations. An older limestone, which I call the Bluff Limestone forms the central and larger part of each island ; and a younger formation of consolidated coral-sand and marl, with some limestone, which I call the Ironshore Formation, occupies most of the periphery as a low coastal terrace, which never rises to a greater height than 12 to 15 feet above the sea, and generally terminates abruptly inland against raised marine cliffs of the Bluff Limestone. In addition to the above are the recent deposits which, at sea, are

living coral-reefs that almost surround the islands of Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, but occur only to a limited extent at the south-west of Cayman Brac, and, ashore, consist of blown coral-sand and storm beaches of coral shingle piled up by winds, storms, and hurricanes on the seaward side of the coastal platform. All the islands are entirely devoid of streams, owing to the porosity of the limestones, and even dry valleys are absent."

Some 10 miles west of Grand Cayman is an area of shoal water known as the Cayman Bank, which is 5 miles long and about half-a-mile wide, with depths of 15 to 20 fathoms. Its platform-like surface is surrounded on all sides by steep slopes.

South of the Cayman group, at distances varying from 25 to 50 miles, lies the Bartlett Deep which, some 50 to 90 miles wide, extends in an east-and-west direction from the Gulf of Honduras to Western Haiti. Ten soundings of over 3,000 fathoms' depth have been obtained, the sounding south of Grand Cayman being 3,428 fathoms.

#### CLIMATE

The climate of the Cayman Islands is for the greater part of the year excellent as, lying in the latitude of the Trade Winds, there are few days of calm and the north-east breezes temper even the hottest days. Only when the wind veers to the south-east or south can the temperature be termed oppressive.

The seasons are fairly well defined. The period May to October is the hot season when the temperature ranges from 70° F. to 85° F. and the prevailing winds are from east to south. During this period the rainfall is comparatively heavy and mosquitoes abound. The cool season is from November to April when the range of temperature is 10° lower and the prevailing winds from north-east to north-west. The most pleasant period is from mid-November to mid-March when the weather is generally cool and there are few, if any, mosquitoes.

The total rainfall for the years 1949 and 1950 was 52.02 and 59.12 inches respectively, the average being around 60 inches per annum.

The hurricane season lasts from July to November and the islands have been hit periodically. The last visitation of this kind which occurred in October, 1944, is said to have been the worst in living memory.

A meteorological station was erected at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, in 1935 by the Cuban Department of Agriculture and trained observers from the National Observatory at Havana are stationed there throughout the year. Reports are exchanged twice daily with Havana whence weather information is re-transmitted throughout the Caribbean.

## Chapter 2: History

The islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman are said to have been discovered by Columbus in May, 1503, in the course of a voyage from Porto Bello, Panama, to Hispaniola (Haiti and Santo Domingo) and

to have been named by him "Las Tortugas" on account of the numbers of marine turtle found around their shores. It is worthy of note that the islands, bearing no name, appear on the Cantino chart of 1503 in approximately their correct position.

No settlement appears to have been founded but the islands were frequently visited by vessels of all nations for revictualling purposes.

An account exists of a visit paid in 1643 by the vessels under the command of Captain William Jackson after his abortive attempt on Jamaica. His description of Grand Cayman reads :

" This place is low land and all rockye, and there be other 2 Islands of ye same name and Qualitie, being by ye Spanyards called Chimanoe, from ye multitude of Alligators here found which are Serpents, if not resembling ye Crocodiles of Egypt. Hither doe infinit numbers of sea tortoises resorte to lay their eggs upon ye Sandy Bay, which at this time (June) swarm so thick. The Island is much frequented by English, Dutch and French ships, that come purposely to salt up ye flesh of these Tortoises."

Jamaica was taken in 1655 and the Cayman Islands became a regular source of food supply for the soldiers and fleets of England cruising the Caribbean. Eventually, by the Treaty of Madrid in 1670, Jamaica was ceded to the British Crown and with it the Cayman Islands. There does not, however, appear to have been any serious settlement until the early part of the eighteenth century, although it is apparent that from time to time there were parties of residents chiefly composed of shipwrecked sailors, beach-combers and possibly marooned mariners. The earliest record of a grant of land being made to the first settlers is in 1734, following by further patents in 1741. The families of " Bodden " and " Foster " are in all probability direct descendants from these patentees, some of whom bore those names.

The origin of the name "Cayman" has been the subject of much speculation, a likely theory being that parties coming ashore from visiting ships in search of turtle named the islands after the caimans, or alligators, which they found there.

### Chapter 3: Administration

In the early days of settlement, public affairs were administered by Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The Justices functioned under the direction of one of their number whom they themselves selected and who was styled "Governor." In 1852 the principal of representative government was accepted and elected members known as Vestrymen were added to the administrative body. At the same time the title "Custos" was substituted for that of "Governor."

An Act of Parliament, passed in 1863, provided for the ratification of all prior acts of the local body receiving the assent of the Government of Jamaica. Under this authority, twenty acts, passed between 1832 and 1864, were submitted to the Governor of Jamaica whose assent to them was given in 1865. It was further provided in the Act that

the Justices and Vestry should continue to exercise legislative powers, their enactments being subject to the assent of the Governor of Jamaica. Under the same authority the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Dependency, and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed.

In 1898, the powers of the Customs were vested in a Commissioner who combines administrative duties with those of Judge of the Grand Court. He is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The seat of Government is at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, where the Commissioner resides.

The present Assembly of Justices and Vestry consists of the Commissioner as President, 27 Justices of the Peace and 27 Vestrymen. The Justices of the Peace are commissioned in a General Commission of the Peace by the Governor of Jamaica, the latest Commission being dated 12th August, 1946, when 32 Justices of the Peace were appointed.

The election of Vestrymen is held every two years, and is governed by an Act of 1832 which provided that "upon requisition of the Custos or Senior Magistrate, the Magistrates in the district shall call the people together and proceed to elect Vestrymen to serve for two years." Whereas women would appear to be included in the electorate it has long been the practice for male tax-payers only to vote, the latter being defined in Law 5 of 1927 as "male persons between the ages of 18 and 60 years." The last election was held in August, 1950.

## Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are in use throughout the Dependency.

## Chapter 5: Newspapers and Periodicals

There are no newspapers or periodicals published in the Territory.

## Chapter 6: Reading List

*Notes on the History of the Cayman Islands*, by Dr. GEORGE S. S. HIRST, a former Commissioner of the Cayman Islands. Jamaica, 1910.  
*The Cayman Islands: Their Stamps and Post Office*, by D. B. ARMSTRONG. Junior Philatelic Society, 1911.

*Birds of the Cayman Islands*, by R. P. LOWE. Ibis, 1911.

*The Postage Stamps of the Cayman Islands*, by F. J. MELVILLE. G. Gibbons, 1914.

## OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

*Geology of the Cayman Islands*, by S. A. MATLEY (1926).

*The Herpetology of the Cayman Islands*, by CHAPMAN GRANT (1940).

*Forestry in the Cayman Islands*, by CHRISTOPHER SWABY, B.Sc., and C. BERNARD LEWIS, B.A.

*The Fisheries of the Cayman Islands*, by ERNEST F. THOMPSON, M.Sc., Ph.D. (Cantab.).

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COLONIAL OFFICE

# REPORT ON THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

(Dependency of Jamaica)

## FOR THE YEARS

### 1953 & 1954

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## PART I

### General Review

THE two years covered by this report were years of great achievement. They were also the two most prosperous years in the history of the Dependency. This prosperity was shared by all sections of the community, and by all Districts, and as in previous years the increasing prosperity of the Dependency has been reflected in a marked improvement in living standards. The improvement has been most noticeable in the direction of housing: scores of new and solidly constructed homes have been built, and a great deal of money has been spent on such things as improved water storage cisterns, indoor sanitation, insect screening, and modern furniture and domestic appliances. There has been a further general improvement in diet. Imports of consumer goods and durable articles such as motor cars and refrigerators have been so great as at times to place a strain on shipping capacity. Government revenues have naturally benefitted, and revenue from customs in 1954 was double the revenue for the year 1950 : much of the instability which until recently characterised the finances of the Dependency has accordingly been removed.

#### *Grand Cayman Airfield*

The greatest single cause of the increased prosperity of 1953 and 1954 was the construction of the Grand Cayman airfield and the solution which it brought to the Dependency's problems of communication with the outside world; these have in the past seriously retarded the Dependency's development. The airfield was completed in August, 1953, and was formally opened by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Hugh Foot, in March, 1954. A large crowd assembled on this occasion, and among those present were Mr. W. A. Bustamante, Chief Minister of Jamaica, and two of his Ministers, the Commander in Chief of the America and West Indies Station, Vice Admiral J. F. Stevens, and a party of Royal Marines from his flagship H.M.S. *Sheffield*. The field was named the Owen Roberts Field, in memory of Wing Commander Owen G. E. Roberts, who did so much to pioneer air services in the Dependency.

Wing Commander Roberts' pioneering activities were brought to a tragic end in April, 1953, when the aircraft in which he was travelling to Grand Cayman crashed on leaving Palisadoes Airport, Jamaica. Caribbean International Airways was an organisation which depended to a peculiar degree on the personality and vision of Wing Commander Roberts himself, and with his sudden and tragic death the airline was unable to continue. His memory is revered in the Cayman Islands, both for his invaluable pioneering work (without which it is doubtful

if there would be any air services today) and for his humorous and happy temperament which caused him to be regarded with great affection as the epitome of the English gentleman-adventurer. Plans are being made for the erection of a suitable memorial at the airport.

The end of the operations of Caribbean International Airways brought home forcibly to the Dependency just how dependent it was for its continued prosperity on its newly acquired air services to Jamaica and to the United States. For a period of nearly three months the Dependency was without any air services at all. The first step towards repairing the damage was the commencement by British West Indian Airways of a weekly service to and from Kingston, making Grand Cayman an intermediate stop on its service to Belize. There followed a long and frustrating period during which attempts were made to re-establish air communication with the United States. Licensing difficulties caused what appeared to be unending delays : as a temporary measure British West Indian Airways operated a weekly service to Havana, from where onward transport was available, but in February, 1954, all licensing and other difficulties were overcome and a regular service was begun between Grand Cayman and Miami, Florida.

In the interim a keen-eyed pilot *en route* to Central America sighted the new airfield, and concluded that it would be a valuable refuelling point for his Company's freighter operations. The outcome was that LACSA (Lineas Aereas Costarricenses S.A.) the national airline of the Republic of Costa Rica, and an affiliate of Pan-American Airways, began to use Grand Cayman for refuelling purposes, freighter aircraft being enabled by the island's happy geographical situation directly between Miami and Costa Rica, to carry a smaller quantity of fuel and a correspondingly larger quantity of cargo. In July, 1954, this company also obtained rights to operate a weekly passenger service between Panama, San Jose (Costa Rica), Grand Cayman and Miami. This service not only provided an additional service to the United States, but also re-established after nearly half a century the long standing but increasingly tenuous contact between the Cayman Islands and the mainland of Central America.

The result was that, at the end of 1954, the Dependency had two passenger services a week to Kingston, two to Miami, one to Belize, and one to Costa Rica and Panama. Almost over-night, therefore, Grand Cayman became easily accessible for the first time in its history. The Dependency's spurt towards yet greater prosperity arises from two basic inter-related facts : larger numbers of people than ever before have been enabled to come to the Dependency; even larger numbers have been enabled to leave the Dependency.

#### *Employment*

The business of the Dependency is no longer turtle fishing, or rope making, or shipbuilding, though these still make an important contribution towards income. The business of the Dependency is nowadays the export of seamen. With the new accessibility of the Dependency and with the co-operation of one of the leading American tanker com-

panies, some hundreds of additional seamen have been enabled to obtain remunerative overseas employment. These seamen not only themselves return regularly to the Cayman Islands, but they also remit back to their families a substantial proportion of their earnings. It is impossible accurately to estimate remittances, but the total is a very high one in relation to the total population. These seamen normally have excellent terms of service, the companies which employ ninety per cent of Caymanian seamen having an enlightened and generous attitude towards their employees; promotion for good men is rapid, and the Companies are quite prepared to take a high proportion of men without previous tanker experience for training. At the end of 1954 one Company alone employed over six hundred Caymanians : recruitment was continuing, and though there are still a fair number of deck personnel available, experienced engine room staff were practically unobtainable. The Company concerned is tentatively exploring the possibilities (in consultation with the Cayman Islands Government) of giving further training ashore to suitable men, to enable them to qualify as deck officers. Here the fundamental problem is, unfortunately, poor basic education.

The heavy recruitment of seamen, while making the Dependency uncommonly prosperous, does produce its own problems. A shortage of labour has resulted and any young man who has any reasonable mechanical or technical skill is greatly attracted by the better prospects of seafaring, downs tools and leaves the Dependency.

One effect of this has been that it has become exceedingly difficult to recruit and retain staff for Government Service, as the level of salaries paid is out of relation to those obtainable by seamen. There has been some discontent on the part of Government staff, but at the end of 1954, proposals for a regrading of salaries were then being examined and have since been approved.

#### *Tourism*

The Dependency's improved communications have also brought about greatly increased tourist business. The 1953-1954 winter season was a poor one because of the continuing uncertainty, at that time, over air passenger services to the United States. But as new services were provided in the summer of 1954, the 1954-1955 winter season showed every sign of being the best tourist year which the Dependency has so far had. Pageant Beach Hotel, a local enterprise, was opened in 1954, providing additional accommodation for 36 guests. On the West Bay beach, the owner of Galleon Beach Hotel (Mr. Benson Greenall of London) was so far encouraged by the improvement of air services, as to commence the construction of a new luxury hotel. This will have accommodation for 84 guests, and will cost nearly £200,000 to build and equip. Construction is in the hands of Reema Construction Limited, of Salisbury, England. Building operations started in October, 1954, and were hampered initially by the London dock strike, but it is expected that work will be completed on the contract date and that the new hotel will open for business on 1st January, 1956.

At the end of 1954 work was virtually completed on buildings which will accommodate the revived Cayman Islands Yacht Club. The considerable capital expenditure involved has been met by Mr. James B. Ford, and from the financial point of view the club will be a proprietary club. Under the aegis of the new Yacht Club it is hoped to revive the Annual Regatta, which in pre-war years was an outstandingly pleasant facet of Cayman life. There is also available for hire quantities of spear-fishing and underwater equipment. This is a great asset to Grand Cayman, as the waters around the coasts are of unique clearness, and underwater life is a source of perennial fascination to visitors.

#### *New Hospital, Grand Cayman*

After much unavoidable delay the new hospital built with Colonial Development and Welfare assistance in Grand Cayman was fully equipped and opened in October, 1955. The contrast between the new hospital and the dark, cramped and insanitary building which previously served as a hospital is, in retrospect, most striking. The new hospital has 28 beds, with a well equipped operating theatre, maternity ward, X-Ray block, and admirable Nurses' Quarters. It is set in attractive grounds, levelled by the use of earth-moving equipment, which have been planted with colourful flowering shrubs.

The expansion of medical facilities has served to emphasise certain difficulties that were already apparent, namely the persistent difficulty of recruiting and retaining trained medical and nursing staff ; the extent to which a single-handed Medical Officer can cope with administrative matters ; and the need to train an X-Ray technician.

#### *The Lesser Islands: A New Airstrip*

Reference was made in the last Report to the invidious position of the Lesser Islands, which at the end of 1954 still retained their inaccessibility not only from the outside world but from Grand Cayman itself. The construction of the Grand Cayman airfield in no way assisted the Lesser Islands, and there has been some ill-concealed resentment that additional taxation should have been levied (in the shape of increased import duties) to finance airfield construction which has been very little to the advantage of the Lesser Islands. It is therefore gratifying to record that this problem has now been tackled : despite the grave difficulties (both practical and financial) and despite the admonitory shaking of some more experienced heads, the decision was taken in 1954 to build a small airstrip by local effort. A site was selected on barren ground at the West End of Cayman Brac: picks, shovels, a solitary vintage truck and boundless enthusiasm excavated to bedrock, levelled with rock, topped with gravel and sand, and finished off an excellent runway with a top dressing of hard-binding phosphate. In the latter stages some concern was felt about compaction, and a three ton roller was borrowed from the Public Works Department, Jamaica : the transportation and operation of this roller resulted in the final cost being one hundred pounds in excess of the original estimate of £1,500. It is a remarkable achievement to have built an airstrip for this small

cost, and the work could never have been done without the tireless enthusiasm of the people of Cayman Brac. The runway is 1,200 feet long, 60 feet wide, and has rough over-runs which bring the total length up to 1,400 feet. The airstrip was completed in November, 1954. It is intended to extend it to 2,250 feet.

There remains the problem of operating an air service which can utilise the new airstrip, and at the end of 1954 plans were well advanced for the formation of a Company probably to be known as Cayman Brac Airways Limited. The proposal is to operate a twin engine Cessna aircraft, based on Grand Cayman, on regular weekly or twice weekly flights to Cayman Brac, with possible charter operations to other points. There are good prospects that such a service will be initiated early in 1955.

The operation of such a service will involve a fairly substantial subsidy from the Cayman Islands Government—possibly £1,800 a year, but it will be a remarkable advance if, within such a very short period, the Dependency can write "solved" to its problems both of communication with the outside world and its problems of domestic inter-communication. It is perhaps not too much to hope for that, in the future, an airstrip might be built on the island of Little Cayman, which has never recovered from the disastrous hurricane of 1932; apart from its increasingly extensive coconut plantations, Little Cayman remains rather derelict. It is an island of great natural charm, and if given an initial impetus, has considerable possibilities.

#### *Economic Affairs*

During 1953 and 1954 the financial position of the Dependency improved to a remarkable extent: not only did increased importations improve Customs receipts, but collection of revenue was made more efficient. A great deal more can and will be done to collect revenue more efficiently, but there is some opposition to administrative efficiency on the part of vested interest. Revenue and expenditure in both years were the highest on record, but with the combined expansion of the public services the margin for further development in the direction of capital works is painfully small. It is nevertheless fair to say that the Dependency is financially on a sounder footing than it has ever been in the past, for the reason that the Cayman Islands are steadily shedding their dependence on philatelic sales of postage stamps as an item of recurrent revenue. Receipts from this source have in the past fluctuated wildly, and have been unpredictable, and it is hoped that the danger of sudden financial crisis, caused by these fluctuations, is now a thing of the past.

At the end of 1954 the financial outlook was reassuring, with revenue ahead of estimate, and it appeared likely that the financial year would end with a comfortable surplus: this will be set aside to help to finance a further development programme for which assistance will be sought from Colonial Development and Welfare sources. The economic outlook generally was also good. A high proportion of the ships on which Caymanians serve were on long-term charter: there has also been much

additional publicity for the Islands in the United States. This will attract a greater number of tourists to the Dependency.

On the economic side, the only depressing matter for report was the closing down of the Colonial Development Corporation Cannery, which began the production of turtle soup in 1952 and suspended operations in 1953. Marketing difficulties in the United States proved to be insuperable, and it has since been impossible to interest any outside manufacturer in taking over the Cannery. The equipment will probably be removed to some other enterprise. The Colonial Development Corporation was willing, in view of the suspension of its canning activities, to assist the owners of turtle fishing vessels to dispose of their catch by making joint marketing arrangements in the United States. The Corporation's willingness to do this coincided with a period when turtle were in demand in the United States, and the vessel owners were unenthusiastic. Since that time the market for turtle has slumped, and the owners may yet have cause to regret their decision. Record catches were made in the 1953 season, and these were disposed of profitably, but as the market was poorer in 1954 the more far sighted owners were restricting the catch to what they estimated could comfortably be sold.

In 1954 all aeronautical radio services were taken over by International Aeradio (Caribbean) Limited, the result being a vast improvement in facilities available to airlines. The Cayman Islands Government pays a small annual subsidy to International Aeradio, but is it hoped that as air traffic increases this will be reduced and eventually waived. In the same year the Cayman Islands Electric Light and Power Company was reorganised, and the power supply in Georgetown has greatly improved : it is still far from perfect, but power is now available between eighteen and twenty-four hours daily as compared to six hours in the past. The Company proposes to extend power to West Bay, and transmission lines are being erected.

In October, 1954, the three Cayman Islands lay for several days directly in the approaching path of the hurricane "Hazel" and there appeared at one time to be no prospect of avoiding its full impact. Fortunately for the Dependency the hurricane veered north, where it not only brought disaster to Haiti, but did a great deal of damage in the United States. During this period H.M.S. *Vidal* (which had been engaged in correcting the chart of Georgetown harbour) stood by, and would have provided the Dependency with the same valuable assistance which she later rendered in Haiti; but all Caymanians were profoundly thankful that the occasion for such assistance did not arise.

#### Visits

During 1953 and 1954 Grand Cayman was visited by H.M.S. *St. Austell Bay*, H.M.S. *Burghead Bay*, H.M.S. *Sheffield*, H.M.S. *Cygnets* and H.M.S. *Vidal*. Visits were also paid by the Band and Drums both of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. Both the Royal Navy and the two Regiments were warmly welcomed by the people. His Excellency the Governor of Jamaica, Sir Hugh Foot, and Lady Foot visited Grand Cayman both in 1953 and in

1954 and were given an enthusiastic reception. In both years transportation difficulties made it impossible for them to visit the Lesser Islands, but the prospective air service to Cayman Brac should overcome this difficulty in the near future.

Grand Cayman was also honoured by the visit in 1953 of the Right Honourable Henry Hopkinson, Minister of State for the Colonies, who broke his journey for a brief two hours *en route* to British Honduras. Mr. P. Rogers, Assistant Under Secretary of State, also visited the Dependency for a period of two days in the year 1953. In 1954 Mr. W. J. Bigg of the Colonial Office advised on air transport problems during brief refuelling stops to and from British Honduras.

In both 1953 and 1954 expeditions were made to Grand Cayman by Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Ostheimer, 3rd, of Philadelphia, to collect marine shells on behalf of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia; the results of their exhaustive work will be published by the Academy in due course. Specimens of marine fungi were also obtained in 1954 at the request of the Marine Laboratory of the University of Miami and were forwarded to the United States for study.

#### *Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes*

There is listed below Colonial Development and Welfare schemes initiated or in progress during the years 1953 and 1954.

<i>Number of Scheme</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>C.D.&amp;W. Contri- bution £</i>	<i>Local Contri- bution</i>
D.742, and	Medical and Public Health	47,547	—
D.742A & B.			
D.1439	Road, Cayman Brac	5,000	—

All Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes had been completed at the end of 1954.

## PART II

### Chapter 1: Population

THE earliest record relates to the year 1774, when the total population was estimated to be 176. By 1802, when a census was undertaken by an officer appointed for that purpose by the Governor of Jamaica, the total had risen to 933, of whom 545 were slaves. The figures for 1891, 1911, 1921 and 1934 were 4,322, 5,564, 5,253 and 6,009 respectively.

A census of Jamaica and its Dependencies financed by Her Majesty's Government and directed by Mr. A. J. Pelletier, Chief of Census, Canadian Bureau of Statistics, was taken in January, 1943. The method employed on this occasion provided for the enumeration of the considerable number of men absent at sea and abroad. This census showed the population of the Dependency to be 6,670, which is the highest in its history. The detailed figures were as follows:

		Male	Female	Total
Grand Cayman	.	2,322	2,989	5,311
Cayman Brac	:	604	692	1,296
Little Cayman	.	29	34	63
		2,955	3,715	6,670

Of this total 1,052 were of African, 3,518 of mixed, and 2,100 of European descent. The islands are unique in the West Indies in their high proportion of inhabitants of European descent.

This 1943 census revealed the number of males per 100 females to be 80, as against 70 in 1934 and 73 in 1921. On both the earlier occasions, however, absent males were not taken into account. During 1954 a sample survey of population was undertaken by officers of the Central Bureau of Statistics, Jamaica, in both Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac. The results are not yet available.

The population at the end of 1954 was estimated to be 8,052, comprising 6,483 persons in Grand Cayman and 1,569 in the Lesser Islands. Birth and death rates per 1,000 population for the years 1950-1954 were as follows:

	Total Births	Rate per thousand	Total Deaths	Rate per thousand
1950	198	26.78	58	7.84
1951	213	28.40	42	5.60
1952	197	25.80	46	6.00
1953	244	30.9	32	4.1
1954	237	29.43	48	6.00

Statistics of migration during the same period are given below:

	<i>Inward</i>	<i>Outward</i>	<i>Plus or Minus</i>
1950	1,527	1,717	— 190
1951	1,519	1,813	— 294
1952	1,741	1,879	— 138
1953	1,878	2,234	— 356
1954	1,909	2,071	— 162

Any account of the population of the Dependency would be misleading if attention were not drawn to the steady emigration which has occurred throughout the past 75 years. Up to the turn of the century many Caymanians migrated to the Central American Republics (principally Nicaragua and Spanish Honduras, where there are still Caymanian communities) and to Cuba. After the turn of the century, large numbers migrated to the United States, the initial impetus being given by the opportunities of employment offered by the construction of the Florida East Coast Railway between 1903 and 1912. With the spectacular development of Florida which has since taken place, more and more Caymanians have been drawn to the United States: it is now probable that there are permanently resident overseas (principally in the United States and most as United States citizens) more Caymanians or persons of Caymanian parentage than there are in the islands. Immigration restrictions have slowed down the drift to the United States.

## Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

### OCCUPATIONS AND WAGES

No labour statistics are available other than those prepared in connection with the 1943 census. These are given below and are at least indicative of the present position:

<i>Group</i>	<i>Gainfully occupied Population</i>		
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Agriculture</i>	264	24	288
<i>Fishing</i>	63	—	63
<i>Manufacturing:</i>			
Foremen, bakers, blacksmiths, boot and shoe repairers, cabinet makers, dressmakers, tailors, mechanics, sawyers, etc.	51	390	441
<i>Construction</i>	127	—	127
<i>Transportation and Communication:</i>			
Seamen, radio operators, captains, mates, engineers, telephone operators, truck drivers, etc.	678	—	678

Group	Gainfully occupied population		
	Male	Female	Total
<b>Trade:</b>			
Owners, managers, agents, brokers, store clerks, etc. . . . .	71	54	125
<b>Services:</b>			
(a) <i>Professional</i> —			
Chemists, physicians, dentists, nurses, teachers, engineers, clergymen, etc. . . . .	17	40	57
(b) <i>Public</i> —			
Government officers, policemen, postmistresses, postal carriers, etc. . . . .	11	1	12
(c) <i>Personal</i> —			
Barbers, hairdressers, barkeepers, cleaners, cooks, domestic servants laundresses, etc. . . . .	56	421	477
(d) <i>Clerical</i> . . . . .	14	7	21
(e) <i>Labourers</i> . . . . .	236	6	242
All Occupations . . . . .	<u>1,588</u>	<u>943</u>	<u>2,531</u>

A considerable proportion of the adult population of the Cayman Islands is engaged in seafaring in various capacities in vessels plying all over the world (see also Part I). These seamen received wages varying from £35 per month to (in the case of qualified deck and engineering staff) as much as £225 per month. The male group aged 20 to 50 years is therefore conspicuous in the islands by its absence, with the result that male labour is a scarce commodity. There is virtually no unemployment.

Rates for unskilled labour vary between 11s. and 15s. a day: stevedores are paid 1s. 7½d. per hour; carpenters and masons between £1 10s. 0d. and £3 per day according to their capacities. Female shop assistants receive on the average £5 per month, and domestic servants between £2 10s. and £6 per month, usually with partial board. The thatch rope industry is mainly a female occupation, and earnings are between 17s. 6d. and £1 5s. 0d. per week; persons engaged in the manufacture of rope are invariably self-employed.

In most occupations there is a 40-hour working week, though store clerks and shop assistants normally work a 50-hour week.

#### COST OF LIVING

The cost of living is high, mainly because the attractions of seafaring have caused an increasing drift from agriculture. The Dependency therefore produces only a small proportion of its foodstuffs, most of which are imported from Jamaica and the United States. The basic items of diet are bread, rice, beans, corn meal, sugar and coffee, supple-

mented by locally grown vegetables (such as yams, cassava, breadfruit, pumpkins), fruit, fresh and salt meat and fish and the ubiquitous turtle. Prices of staple commodities at the end of 1952 and 1954 were as follows:

			1952	1954
Flour . . . . .	per pound		9½d.	10d.
Corn Meal . . . . .	per pound		10d.	9d.
Sugar (White) . . . . .	per pound		7d.	8d.
Beans . . . . .	per pound		1s. 6d.	1s. 6d.
Rice (Patna) . . . . .	per pound		1s. 6d.	1s. 4d.
Fresh Beef . . . . .	per pound		1s. 3d.	1s. 7d.
Fresh Pork . . . . .	per pound		1s. 3d.	1s. 7d.
Fresh Fish . . . . .	per pound		1s.	1s.
Salt Beef . . . . .	per pound		2s. 6d.	2s. 8d.
Codfish . . . . .	per pound		2s. 5d.	2s. 6d.
Kerosene . . . . .	per gallon		2s. 9d.	2s. 9d.
Matches . . . . .	per box		1d.	1d.
Tobacco leaf . . . . .	per pound	8s. 3d.	8s. 3d.	8s. 3d.
Cigarettes . . . . .	per packet of 20	1s. 3d.	1s. 3d.	1s. 3d.

Prices have become reasonably stable, and are in general about 225 per cent above 1939 prices. In 1953 increases in the controlled price were granted in respect of fresh beef and fresh pork, demand for which is far in excess of supply; these prices are still artificially low, but the price of meat is tied in local eyes to basic wage rates, and any substantial increase would have adverse repercussions on the economy generally. During 1954 most of the cumbersome machinery of price control was removed, and control is now restricted to beans, cigarettes, coffee, corn meal, flour, gasolene, kerosene, lard, meat and turtle, milk, rice, sugar and salt.

The cost of running a house for a European or American married couple, including food, servants' wages, laundry, rent of a furnished house, lighting, and a moderate amount of entertaining, would be between £70 and £80 per month. The rates of the hotels in Grand Cayman are as follows:—

#### *Galleon Beach Club:*

##### *Winter Rates Only*

Single Room ....	....	....	£7 0s. 0d. per day
Double Room ....	....	....	£5 7s. 6d. per person per day

#### *Sea View Lodge:*

*Winter Rates*—£2 16s. 0d. to £4 4s. 0d. per day.

*Summer Rates*—£1 15s. 0d. to £2 16s. 0d. per day.

#### *Pageant Beach Hotel:*

*Winter Rates*—£4 4s. 0d. to £5 5s. 0d. per day.

*Summer Rates*—£2 2s. 0d. to £2 16s. 0d. per day.

#### *Bay View Hotel:*

*Winter Rates*—£1 15s. 0d. to £2 2s. 0d. per day.

*Summer Rates*—£1 8s. 0d. to £1 15s. 0d. per day.

## LABOUR LEGISLATION

The Trade Union Law of 1942 provided a legislative framework for the formation, registration, rights, powers and control of trade unions, but no trade unions have in fact been formed. In December, 1946, the Minimum Wage Law was passed, and Regulations made thereunder were approved by the Governor in July, 1947. This law gives power to fix a minimum wage for employees where the wages paid are unreasonably low. No orders have yet been made under the Law. There is no factory legislation.

### Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The revenue and expenditure of the Dependency for the past five years are set out below:

		Revenue	Expenditure
		£	£
1950-51	.	59,863	47,474
1951-52	.	42,459	58,640
1952-53	.	53,613	51,738
1953-54	.	64,854	75,284†
1954-55	.	92,428*	64,891*

† Includes £12,000 capital expenditure on new hospital.

\* Revised Estimates.

The above figures do not include Colonial Development and Welfare revenue and expenditure.

## PUBLIC DEBT

The following table shows the position of loans at 31st December, 1954:

Designation and Amount of Loan	Balance Outstanding on 31st December, 1954			Remarks
	£	s.	d.	
Hurricane Loan, 1933 £3,660 3%	695	17	3	Repayable to Government of Jamaica in 20 years from 1st April, 1938
Public Works Loan, 1938 £6,500 3½%	2,064	18	9	Repayable to Government of Jamaica in 20 years from 1st April, 1940

The former loan was incurred to repair the damage caused by the hurricane of 1932, and the latter to erect public buildings.

During 1952 a loan of £55,500 was raised by the Cayman Islands Corporation from the Colonial Development Corporation to finance airfield construction. At the end of 1954 the sum of £49,950 was outstanding. This loan is guaranteed by the Cayman Islands Government.

## RESERVE FUNDS

The Reserve and Replacement Funds of the Dependency stand at £40,222 11s. 2d. These are as follows:

*General Reserve Fund* £35,015 1s. 5d. as at 31st March, 1954.

*Hurricane Fund* £2,596 18s. 10d. as at 31st March, 1954.

*Public Buildings Replacement Fund* £2,265 8s. 11d. as at 31st December, 1954.

*Boat Replacement Fund* £345 2s. 0d. as at 31st December, 1954.

The assets of the first two funds are invested in British, Dominion and Colonial securities, held by the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations: all interest is re-invested. The assets of the two latter funds are held locally on Fixed Deposit Receipt with Barclays Bank, D.C. & O.

## TAXATION

The two principal sources of revenue are import duties and receipts from the sale of postage stamps. Revenue from these sources for the past five years has been as follows:

	<i>Import Duties</i>	<i>Sale of Stamps</i>
	£	£
1950-51	25,980	28,734
1951-52	27,816	5,957
1952-53	38,311	5,873
1953-54	43,977	9,845
1954-55	50,670	28,454

Small taxes are levied on vehicles, bicycles, cattle, horses, dogs, firearms, boats etc. Light dues are payable on shipping, and warehouse fees are collected from importers. There is no income tax, companies tax, land tax, estate duty or excise duty.

## Customs Tariff

Under the Customs Tariff Law most articles imported into the Dependency are subject to an *ad valorem* duty of 15 per cent, cost, insurance and freight being taken into consideration in arriving at the value of dutiable articles. There is a preferential and a general tariff for some articles such as aerated waters, beer, butter, margarine, bicycles, cement, spirits, wines, tea and tobacco: duty under the preferential tariff is in the main at a rate of 15 per cent *ad valorem* and under the general tariff at a rate of 20 per cent *ad valorem*. The following are examples of specific duties:

	<i>Preferential Tariff</i>	<i>General Tariff</i>
Beer, Porter, etc.	3s.	4s. 6d. per gallon
Spirits	27s.	36s. per gallon
Cigarettes	16s. 6d.	17s. 6d. per 1,000
Leaf Tobacco	5d.	6d. per pound
Wines	6s.	11s. per gallon

The above duties came into effect in the year 1952.

Certain articles are admitted free of duty, e.g. for the Armed Forces of the Crown or for the Commissioner, artificial limbs, wire screen cloth, mosquito netting, fertilisers, books, etc.

***Tonnage Tax***

The Tonnage Tax Law, 1947, levies a tax computed on gross weight on all articles imported into the Cayman Islands for use therein. The rates of duty vary from 3d. to 6d. per package on packages of not more than 100 lb. gross weight: on gasoline the tax is 1s. per 50 gallons: on lumber 5s. per 1,000 superficial feet: on shingles 2s. per 1,000: on tiles, slates and roofing material 15s. per 1,000 and on metals 2s. per cwt. The tonnage tax produces about £1,600 per annum.

Legislation is in force exempting, under certain not very onerous conditions, from both customs duty and tonnage tax, all materials imported for the erection and equipment of hotels and for the setting up of Pioneer Industries.

***Stamp Duties***

Under Law 9 of 1906, as amended in the year 1952, stamp duty ranging from 1d. to £4 4s. 0d. is payable on specified instruments and documents, such as agreements, bills of exchange, conveyances, deeds, leases, mortgages and receipts for money paid.

***Poll Tax***

A personal tax of 8s. per year is imposed on every male person between the ages of 18 and 60 years. Collection of this tax is difficult owing to the continual movement overseas of the taxable group.

## Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

### CURRENCY

British silver and copper coins and Jamaican coins are in circulation. Silver coins are legal tender up to a value of 40s., and copper coins up to a value of 1s. Government of Jamaica notes of the denominations of £5, £1, 10s. and 5s. are in circulation, and are unlimited legal tender. At the end of 1954 it was estimated that currency to a total value of £52,150 was in circulation.

### BANKING

In March, 1953, a branch of Barclays Bank, Ltd., (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), was opened in Grand Cayman, and the new banking facilities provided have been invaluable both to the commercial community and to Government. Government has been enabled to simplify and regularise its own accounting procedures to a remarkable extent, and to give up its own long-standing and unwilling participation in the more elementary forms of banking which, in the absence of a commercial bank, had perforce to be undertaken by the Post Office and Treasury.

Government continues to provide savings facilities in the shape of the Government Savings Bank, which conducts business in Georgetown, Grand Cayman and at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac. The Bank was established in 1908, and the Cayman Brac Branch was opened in the year 1934. At the end of 1954 there were 2,012 open accounts, and the amount

standing to the credit of depositors was £160,432. This compares with 478 accounts totalling £15,158 in 1941 and 1,570 accounts totalling £116,829 in the year 1950.

## Chapter 5: Commerce

The prosperity of the Dependency is due principally to the fact that Caymanians are first-class seamen, and remit to the islands a considerable portion of their earnings. Other factors are the earnings of motor schooners engaged in the turtle and shark fisheries, and of locally owned vessels engaged in the Caribbean Gulf carrying trade. There is also a rapidly growing contribution from the tourist trade. Import and export figures for the past five years are as follows:

	<i>Imports</i>	<i>Exports</i>
	£	£
1950 . . . .	202,669	35,479
1951 . . . .	212,075	35,653
1952 . . . .	260,100	64,490
1953 . . . .	273,621	37,553
1954 . . . .	287,954	37,693

The value and quantity of the principal imports was as follows:

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i> £	<i>1954</i>	
			<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i> £
Flour (barrels) . . .	3,890	18,052	4,239	19,374
Corn Meal (barrels) . . .	454	2,219	571	2,467
Rice (cwt) . . .	491	2,379	578	3,061
Sugar (tons) . . .	306	9,985	362	13,150
Textiles . . .	—	22,921	—	20,313
Oil, Petrol (gallons) . . .	81,648	7,609	91,360	8,346
Oil, Kerosene (gallons) . . .	52,224	4,735	59,468	5,357

The principal exports were as follows:

	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i> £	<i>1954</i>	
			<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i> £
Turtles (No.) . . .	3,252	11,382	3,322	11,627
Turtle Skin (lbs.) . . .	13,553	7,802	14,780	5,910
Rope (1,000 fathoms)	1,601	11,419	2,167	17,007
Turtle shell (lbs.) . . .	5,272	1,170	5,404	1,417
Shark skin (Hides) . . .	934	326	568	284

For a number of years the quantity of thatch rope exported has remained fairly constant. The value of this export has risen considerably under Government control, the price to the producer of 1,000 fathoms having advanced from £1 10s. in 1941 to £6 5s. at the present time.

The trade of the Dependency is mainly with the United States, and most imports come from this source. During 1953 and 1954 there was, however, an increase in imports from or via Jamaica. There are no re-exports from the Dependency.

## Chapter 6: Production

### LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

It is impossible even to estimate the area of cultivable land in the Dependency, as no cadastral survey has ever been undertaken. Grand Cayman has a fairly large area of swamp lands, which are never entered, and though reclamation is possible, this would not at present be a practical economic proposition. Pockets of loam are found amongst the older limestones, and these are of considerable fertility; the sandy wastes along the coast-lines are of no agricultural value except in the Lesser Islands where absence of disease makes possible the planting of coconuts. Nearly everywhere in the islands outcrops of decaying coral-limestone are encountered, and it is doubtful if there is an acre of land which could be ploughed without fatal results to the plough. Where the soil is fertile, it is astonishingly so, and the islands are capable of producing a wide range of tropical fruits and vegetables: agriculture is, however, handicapped by the fact that the Caymanian looks to the sea and not to the land as a means of earning a livelihood. Seafaring is at present a much more remunerative pursuit. The islands have therefore become increasingly dependent on imported foodstuffs, while more and more land has gone out of cultivation because there is no labour to cultivate it.

There is no legislation on land tenure or land usage, all land being individually owned. There is no system of land registration, a fact which gives rise to a certain amount of litigation, but this is satisfactorily dealt with by the Courts. There has been much speculation in land in the past five years, and values have risen considerably; this is restricted in the main to beach land, normally useless for agriculture, the value of which is purely that of potential building land. The general trend is nevertheless for more and more land to pass into fewer hands, in many cases to absentee proprietors who permit the land to go to waste, and consideration must inevitably be given to whether legislation should be enacted on land usage and development.

### AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Although fresh vegetables are imported from Florida and command a ready sale at high prices, no interest is taken by islanders in their local production. An attempt was made to encourage agriculture with the help of a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme, which was started in 1950, but economic conditions in the Dependency were, from the first, against the scheme, which was wound up in 1952. It seems clear that it is only by concentrating on animal husbandry that sound and lasting results can be obtained. Many islanders of the older generation who have retired from the sea take a particular pride in their cattle and pastures. The cattle industry is believed to have possibilities, if abandoned and overgrown pastures could be mechanically cleared and rehabilitated. At the end of 1954 an overseas investor was examining

the possibilities of importing mechanical land clearing equipment for hire, and there are accordingly good prospects of development in this direction.

## LIVESTOCK

The figures of livestock, as disclosed by the 1943 census, were as follows:

Horses	.	.	.	79
Donkeys	.	.	.	101
Cattle	.	.	.	1,858
Goats	.	.	.	118
Poultry	.	.	.	11,135
Pigs	.	.	.	397

These figures most probably represent an underestimate because horses and cattle are subject to a small tax and would be under-declared by owners. There are now far more donkeys, as they are a popular and cheap form of transport in country districts. The common pasturage is guinea grass, which grows abundantly; in Cayman Brac considerable damage has been done to pastures by the introduction, presumably by way of seed in straw material used for packing, of an inferior grass, unacceptable to cattle. There appears to be no prospect of its eradication.

All livestock slaughtered is for local consumption; the demand for meat is far in excess of the supply.

## FORESTRY

The principal forest products are mahogany and the thatch palm. The latter provides the raw material for the thatch rope industry, the Dependency's principal peasant industry. Mahogany is chiefly used, in the shape of natural "bend," in the boat building industry, but is now seldom obtainable for decking or house building. The export of mahogany has been prohibited in effect since 1942.

No active forestry policy for the Dependency has been put into operation, as funds for such a purpose are not available, essential prerequisites being an aerial survey and a cadastral survey. These remain distant desiderata.

## FISHERIES

Deep-sea fishing for turtle (and to a lesser extent shark), which constitutes one of the main industries of the Dependency, is operated by the wealthier merchants and the owners of schooners; the catch is taken on the banks, shoals and cays off the coast of Honduras and Nicaragua. Turtle fishing is a skilled pursuit, traditional to Caymanians and one in which they are expert. After capture green turtle are "crawled" in Grand Cayman and are then exported alive to the United States by way of Key West and Tampa. The market for live turtle was excellent in 1953, but was weak at the end of 1954. Hawksbill turtle are captured for tortoiseshell, for which the market at present is moribund. Sharkskin and other shark products find a ready market in the United States.

In turtle fishing, the ship's company operates on the share principle. The owner of the vessel supplies the material for making nets, buoys, etc., and stores, while the crew provide their labour. From the gross proceeds of the catch a sum is paid to the Nicaraguan Government as royalty and the balance is divided between the crew and the owner. The crew pay for the stores supplied by the owner.

Coastwise fishing is undertaken by small fishermen working in pairs; their catch, which includes lobster, has a ready local sale, and demand for fresh fish exceeds the supply. In a report on the *Fisheries of the Cayman Islands* written in 1946 by Dr. E. F. Thompson, he stated :

"A very small amount for export could be taken locally, but there is far greater potential supply. The Cayman Islands are fitted by geographical position and seafaring tradition to exploit the fisheries resources of the Rosaline Bank, Mosquito Cays, Seranna and Seranilla Banks, and the mass of small cays and islands in this region. From both theoretical reasoning and exhaustive information from practical fishermen, it seems certain that these areas represent the chief potential source of fish within reach of Jamaica. At present these resources are not fished at all, or only to a very limited extent. Fish from this source could be a partial solution to Jamaica's need for reducing her dependence on northern salt fish."

Attempts have been made to develop fisheries along the lines suggested by Dr. Thompson, but have foundered on the familiar difficulties that it has proved impossible to obtain investment in the capital equipment necessary for such a venture, and for the exploitation of the Jamaica market; the Jamaican consumer, addicted to salt cod, thinks poorly of Cayman salt fish, and the difficulties of marketing fresh fish, without refrigeration in Grand Cayman, have proved insuperable. With assured returns from turtle fishing there is little incentive for local capital to be venturesome, and the fisherman himself, whose talent is already at a premium, is disinclined to leave familiar paths.

All three islands, particularly the Lesser Islands, offer excellent sport for the game fisherman during the winter months in particular, and suitable vessels for this purpose are now becoming more numerous. There is nevertheless still plenty of room for improvement in this direction.

#### MINING

No mining is undertaken in the Cayman Islands, the phosphate deposits which have been worked from time to time in the past being of too poor quality to be capable of profitable exploitation in present-day circumstances. It is geologically possible that oil might be found in the islands, and a prospecting licence has been applied for, but has not yet been granted. The Petroleum Law, 1940, No. 26 of 1940, Laws of Jamaica, is applicable to the Cayman Islands.

#### MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

The manufacture of thatch rope is a cottage industry on which many of the poorer people are dependent for a living. The entire output of rope, which has the advantage of being remarkably resistant to salt water, is absorbed by the Jamaica fishing industry. The rope is bought

*with acknowledgments to André J. Challe*

TERMINAL BUILDINGS, OWEN ROBERTS FIELD, GRAND CAYMAN





*with acknowledgments to André J. Challe*

**BEACH VIEW, WEST BEACH, GRAND CAYMAN**



*with acknowledgments to André J. Challe*

**THE CAYMAN YACHT CLUB, GEORGETOWN**

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and exported by Government through agents: the producer is therefore assured of a fair return. The only other manufacturing industry in the Dependency is a small modern bakery, located in Georgetown, which began operations late in the year 1954.

The Pioneer Industries (Encouragement) Law of 1950, and the Hotels Aid Law, grant relief from customs duty and tonnage tax to persons establishing factories or erecting hotels, for a wide range of articles such as building materials and equipment.

During 1953 and 1954 only one 12-ton yacht was built in Grand Cayman; a few small craft were built in the Lesser Islands, for local use.

#### CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The West Bay Co-operative Association is the only co-operative society in the Dependency which functions with any degree of success. This Association has increased its membership very considerably during 1953 and 1954 and occupies its own premises. A keen interest is taken in the work of the Association by the Government Health Officer, a native of West Bay.

## Chapter 7: Social Services

#### EDUCATION

Primary education is free and compulsory for all children between the ages of seven and fourteen; text books and material are provided free of charge. Control is exercised by a Board of Education, which includes one member nominated by the Cayman Islands Teachers' Association. During 1953 and 1954, 11 primary schools were in operation in the Dependency, seven in Grand Cayman, three in Cayman Brac and one in Little Cayman. The school in Little Cayman is very small and provides for the very few children of school age there: instruction is given by the Revenue Officer, Mr. Guy Banks, who admirably fills the many parts of Revenue Officer, schoolmaster, policeman, postmaster, dispenser, wireless operator, Registrar, lighthouse keeper, Government boat man and storekeeper. The average attendance in 1954 at all Government Primary Schools was 660 with 829 children on the rolls.

There was great improvement during 1953 and 1954 in secondary education. The Cayman High School, established in 1949 under the aegis of the Presbyterian Church, has made steady progress. In 1953 three candidates sat for the Senior Cambridge School Certificate examination, and two passed; in 1954 four candidates sat for the examination, but at the end of the year results were not available. In April, 1954, provision was made in the Dependency's Estimates for a grant of £500 per annum to the school, the principal difficulties of which are, inevitably, finance and the recruitment of qualified staff. The Triple C School, operated by the Church of God, provides secondary education

on American lines, but does not prepare candidates for any external examination, and contents itself with issuing its own Diplomas. This school receives no financial support from Government. The attempt to operate a small secondary school in Cayman Brac regrettably failed, as this institution had to be closed with the departure from the Dependency of the Baptist Minister and his wife who did most of the teaching.

The Seventh day Adventist Church operates a small private primary school in Georgetown, Grand Cayman.

The Government teaching staff consists of an Education Officer, nine men and 22 women teachers of whom seven (four men and three women) are certificated. Three Cayman Islands teachers are taking training courses in colleges in Jamaica.

Total Government expenditure on education in 1954-1955 was £9,655: this includes provision for two overseas scholarships for optometry and dentistry.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

The medical and health service consists of a Medical Officer, a Dental Officer and a Health Officer: a Matron, four nurses and a Dispenser. All of these are stationed in Grand Cayman, the Medical Officer and Dental Officer paying periodic visits to the Lesser Islands. A Dispenser is stationed in Cayman Brac, and a subsidy is paid to a midwife who does general maternity work amongst the people of that island. There is also one private medical practitioner in Grand Cayman.

The opening of the new hospital (see also Part I) has completely transformed the Dependency's medical service, and it is a cause for satisfaction that the Dependency has been able to absorb, without difficulty, the increased recurrent cost of the improved facilities available. The only difficulty experienced has been the recruitment of trained nursing staff from Jamaica, and at the end of 1954 the only fully trained nurse available to assist the Medical Officer was the Matron.

During 1953 and 1954 the health of the Dependency has been very satisfactory. The principal causes of mortality were, as before, cardiovascular disease, pneumonia, neoplasma, asthma and status epilepticus. In 1954 ages at death were as follows:

				No.
Under 1 year	.	.	.	5
1-10	.	.	.	6
10-20	.	.	.	1
20-30	.	.	.	—
30-40	.	.	.	—
40-50	.	.	.	—
50-60	.	.	.	2
60-70	.	.	.	7
70-80	.	.	.	12
80-90	.	.	.	10
90-100	.	.	.	5

The main causes of morbidity, in order of frequency were—worms, iron anaemia, anxiety neurosis, vitamin B deficiency, flatulance and

dyspepsia, essential hypertension, upper respiratory tract infections, sinusitis, bad teeth, pelvic inflammatory diseases, appendicitis and bronchial asthma.

There were 237 admissions to the hospital during 1953 and 345 during 1954. Out-patients numbered 4,320 in 1953 and 7,450 in 1954: in 1953 there were 80 major operations and 1,948 minor operations. The figures for 1954 were 85 and 1,200 respectively. There was one case of typhoid in 1953 and two in 1954: in all cases the patients were hospitalized and all members of the families concerned were inoculated.

Seven hundred and fifty persons were affected by an influenza epidemic in June and July, 1954, and for several months strict quarantine restriction was adopted due to the outbreak of poliomyelitis in Jamaica and Costa Rica. In general the medical services continue to be increasingly used by the people, the new hospital being responsible for the disappearance of much of the conventional dread of hospitalization: it is only fair to say however, that there is a good deal of hypochondria amongst the people generally.

In both years it was necessary to send a number of patients to Jamaica but with the better facilities available the number has decreased: the number of mental cases who are being sent to Jamaica remains depressingly constant.

The death of the Government Dental Officer in April, 1953, resulted in a severe set-back in dental work. Between April, 1953, and November, 1954, the services of a Dental Officer were available for only six months. During 1954 only 1,229 patients received treatment, but at the end of the year the whole service had been reorganized under a new Dental Officer and the outlook for the future is now much better.

Total expenditure on Medical and Health services was £5,932 in the financial year 1953-1954, and £7,182 in the financial year 1954-1955 (revised estimate).

The Health Officer tours Grand Cayman and is responsible for the D.D.T. spraying service: this had done a good deal to combat the principal nuisance of the Dependency—the domestic mosquito. The measures at present undertaken are only palliative: the complete eradication of mosquitoes, even in inhabited areas, would require long-term capital expenditure which is at present far beyond the Dependency's resources. There is no doubt, however, that the measures taken have resulted in a reduction of the incidence of mosquitoes and a considerable shortening of the period in the summer months when they are a major pest. The mosquitoes normally disappear in the winter months, otherwise it is improbable that the Islands' possibilities as a tourist resort could be exploited at all.

Domestic sanitation shows a steady improvement, but in areas such as Georgetown there is a persistent housing shortage and gains made are very largely nullified by increasing pressure on living space.

The Dependency is resuming a small scale project for the improvement of domestic sanitation, by making grants to poor people for the construction of pit latrines.

## HOUSING

The people generally are well housed. Wooden dwellings predominate, though the trend in new construction is towards more substantial concrete structures. The wooden houses are usually built on hardwood piles which raise them some two feet above ground level. They are roofed with either shingles or corrugated iron, the roof serving as a catchment for rainwater, which is stored in concrete cisterns or galvanised drums. The roof of the kitchen and the latrine, which are usually a short distance away from the main building, are often of thatch palm.

Many houses are attractively designed and have a generous piece of ground round them which is generally (and noticeably so in the case of the West Bay district) laid out with fruit trees and flowering shrubs. In the Eastern districts the traditional local style of house is more frequently seen, walled with lime mortar and wattles set between hard-wood frames.

Nearly all houses are owned by their occupiers. In the past two years a considerable amount of new house building has been undertaken, principally financed by the remittances of seamen, who generally take a keen interest in their homes.

The census of 1943 recorded that 1,281 houses accommodated on an average 5.2 persons per house, as compared with the 1934 census figures of 4.69 persons per house.

There are no building societies in the Dependency, nor are there any taxes or rates on house property.

## SOCIAL WELFARE

Poor relief is administered through a society of voluntary workers, which receives an annual grant from public funds. The recipients of relief are principally the aged, and in some cases the dependents of seamen who have failed to return to the Dependency and have abandoned their families. Mental cases are sent to the Mental Hospital in Jamaica, the cost of their maintenance being met from the funds of the Dependency.

The Public Library at Georgetown is housed in a commodious and attractive concrete building and is maintained by Government. During 1953 and 1954 nearly seven hundred new volumes were added to the stock of books: over one half of these were gifts from American and Canadian winter residents in the Dependency.

The Girls' Guildry movement, the Cayman Islands Boy Scouts' Association and the Wolf Cub Pack at Georgetown have all successfully continued their activities during the period under review. The East End Citizens' Association and the First Cayman Pioneer Club at Bodden-town, whose objects are the encouragement of communal activities, both social and economic, continue to flourish, while the Seamen's Association at West Bay, which is organised on co-operative lines, has steadily expanded its activities, and with increased membership has built its own hall.

There is one open-air cinema in Georgetown, which is open five nights a week, and cinema shows are also given in a building at West End, Cayman Brac. In general there is a lack of recreational facilities in the Dependency, attributable largely to the absence of the willingness or ability to organise; the playing of games is being encouraged in the schools, but progress is slow.

## Chapter 8: Legislation

The most important legislation enacted during 1953 and 1954 was as follows:

1953

*The Marine Industry (Import Duty and Tonnage Tax) (Drawback) Law, 1953*, a measure to encourage boat-building.

*The Unlawful Possession of Property Law, 1953*, a measure to deal more adequately with praedial larceny.

*The Cayman Islands Corporation Law, 1953*, a measure to set up the Cayman Islands Corporation, a statutory body charged with the duty of stimulating the development of communications and of the Tourist Industry in the Dependency.

*The Explosives Law, 1953*, a measure to control the sale and possession of explosives.

*The Medical Service Law, 1953*, a measure to control the medical service in the Dependency.

1954

*The Regulation of the Courts of Justice (Amendment) Law, 1954*, a measure to bring the practice of the Grand Court in criminal trials into line with the practice of the Circuit Courts of Jamaica.

## Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

### JUSTICE

The Courts of the Dependency are as follows:

The Grand Court of the Cayman Islands.

The Quarterly Petty Court.

The Petty Sessions Court.

*The Grand Court*, constituted by Act 3 of 1889, sections 5 to 8 (Cayman Islands) and Chap. 493 of Jamaica Laws Revised Edition, is presided over by the Commissioner who is the Judge by virtue of his office as Commissioner (J. R. E. Chap. 491, section 3). The Court sits twice a year in June and December, and has jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters as follows:

- (a) In civil matters where the amount claimed exceeds £10 whether arising from tort or from contract or from both, bankruptcy, equity, and probate and administration;
- (b) in criminal matters as set out in section 210, Chap. 493 (J.R.E.).

In cases of capital felony it is provided by section 5, Chap. 491 (J.R.E.) that it shall not be lawful for the Commissioner to preside at the trial and a Judge from Jamaica is always sent to the Dependency for this purpose.

There is a right of appeal from any judgement, decree or order of the Grand Court to the Supreme Court of Jamaica as set out in section 201, Chap. 493, and Chap. 494 (J.R.E.).

The June and December Sessions both in 1953 and 1954 were presided over by Resident Magistrates from Jamaica, appointed by the Governor as Judges of the Grand Court.

*The Quarterly Petty Court*, constituted by Act 3 of 1889, section 3, is presided over by two Justices of the Peace. The jurisdiction of this court extends to actions, whether arising from tort or from contract or from both, and trespass to lands, when the debt or damages claimed do not exceed the sum of £10, and in which no question of the title to real estate is involved. This court under section 4 also has the power to try all cases in which disputes have arisen relative to the boundaries of lands or plantations of which it is necessary to have view. Jurisdiction may be exercised by one Justice and a jury of not more than five or less than three persons.

*The Petty Sessions Court* sits weekly on Fridays and is presided over by two Justices of the Peace. This court deals with minor offences and preliminary examinations in indictable offences. Appeals from the Quarterly Petty Court and from the Petty Sessions Court are provided for in the Cayman Islands Appeal Regulations Law, Law 5 of 1918.

During 1953 the Courts dealt with 91 persons, and during 1954 with 101. (Tabulated returns on pages 27 and 28.)

#### POLICE

The Police Force consists of one Inspector, two Sergeants, a Lance Corporal, nine Constables, and four District Constables; the District Constables function only in case of emergency, and receive a small weekly allowance for their services. Of the total Force, one Sergeant and two Constables are stationed in Cayman Brae, but at the end of 1954 the Cayman Brac detachment was reduced, owing to difficulty in obtaining replacements, to one Constable. Improved pay and conditions of service are being offered, in order to obtain a more efficient and more adequately trained constabulary.

There is little serious crime, though there is no cause for complacency on this account, as in Georgetown, the capital, there has, during 1953 and 1954, been a sharp increase in amateurish burglary and attempted shop-breaking. This is known to be the work of one small group, which is receiving the attention of the Police. In general, cases dealt with by the Petty Sessions Court are not notable for deliberate criminal intent:

*Persons dealt with by the Courts, 1953*

Offences	Convicted										First offenders Act or warning
	Imprisonment					Whipping					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	
Against lawful authority											
Disorderly Conduct											
Against the Person											
Manslaughter											
Grievous harm, wounding etc.											
Assaults											
Sending Threatening letter											
Other											
Against Property											
Thefts and other stealings											
False pretences, cheating, fraud etc.											
Prædial larceny											
Other Prcsspp.											
Against Local Laws											
Against Traffic Ordinance											
Against Township Ordinance											
Firearms Law											
Bastardy											
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>47</b>
M—Male.											
F—Female.											
J—Juvenile.											

Persons dealt with by the Courts, 1954

Offences	Convicted												First offenders Act or warnings
	Imprisonment			Whipping			Fine			(10)			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
Total arrested or summoned to court													
Acquitted													
Nolle Prosequi													
Bound Over													
Awaiting trial													
Order made													
Total	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
Death													
Impresnment													
Convicted													
Whipping													
Fine													
(10)													
101	6	—	5	4	7	79	—	3	—	73	3	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b>													
M—Male.													
F—Female.													
J—Juvenile.													

they are normally the product of an aggressiveness which is usually caused by an overestimation of the individual's capacity to absorb rum.

#### PRISONS

There is a small gaol at Georgetown—a concrete building with six cells opening on to a small courtyard. It is used for prisoners with short sentences, and for those sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment with hard labour for a term of six months or upwards who are awaiting transfer to the General Penitentiary in Jamaica. There is no permanent prison staff, as the gaol is more often than not empty. The Police perform warder duties as and when required and temporary female staff is employed on the rare occasions when a female is incarcerated.

## Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

#### PUBLIC UTILITIES

The Cayman Electric Light and Power Company operates the only public utility in the Cayman Islands—the supply of electricity in Georgetown. In 1953 the antiquated and overburdened generating equipment ground slowly to a complete stop, and for a time it appeared likely that Georgetown would have to do without power altogether. In 1954, however, the Company was reorganised, and under admirably active new management, the generating equipment and transmission lines were overhauled, and power was extended outside Georgetown to the airfield, to South Sound, and part of the way to West Bay. The earlier six hour service was, at the end of the year extended first to an 18-hour service, and then to a 24-hour service. New generators have been purchased and await shipment to the Dependency, and there is every prospect that during 1955 power will be made available to West Bay, and that an ice and cold storage plant will be in operation in Georgetown. The people of Georgetown have in the past been accustomed to poor service at low rates and there is a certain amount of unwillingness to face the fact that a better service has to be paid for. This is a matter which will be discussed with the Company when the question arises of granting a formal franchise.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department consists of a Superintendent of Works, a clerk, and a varying number of daily-paid carpenters and general handymen. The Department is concerned almost exclusively with maintenance of roads, Government vehicles, public buildings, light-houses, and the very exiguous telephone system.

## Chapter 11: Communications

### SHIPPING

The total number of merchant vessels which called at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and at Cayman Brac was 166 in 1954, with a net tonnage of 28,690 tons. The Dependency is not served by any steamship line, contact with the outside world being maintained by means of a steam vessel, two small motor vessels and a number of schooners with auxiliary engines. The s.s. *Caymania*, a vessel of 730 tons, owned and operated by the Cayman Islands Shipping Company Limited, maintains a three-weekly passenger, mail and cargo services between Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, and Belize, British Honduras. This vessel was subsidised by both the Government of Jamaica and the Government of the Cayman Islands but the subsidy agreement expired in November, 1954, and has not been renewed. The future operations of this vessel are therefore uncertain. The m.v. *Merco*, (owners H. O. Merren & Company, Grand Cayman), a vessel of 128 tons, operates a similar service between Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Tampa, Florida. Both these vessels call at Cayman Brac and Little Cayman on both inward and outward voyages. The 84-ton *Addie H* (owners William Farrington & Company, Grand Cayman) operates a less regular service between Grand Cayman, the Isle of Pines and Tampa, Florida. Schooners ply fairly frequently, but at irregular intervals, between the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, British Honduras, Cuba and the Gulf Ports.

Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is the principal port of the Dependency. The anchorage area, in which there is ample depth of water for ocean-going vessels, is approximately half-a-mile north to south by a quarter of a mile east to west. Port facilities are poor. Vessels of shallow draught are able to use a small natural wharf of some 75 feet in length alongside which the depth at low water varies from eight to twelve feet. A small transit shed adjoins the wharf. There is no lightering service and there are no bunkering facilities.

### ROADS AND VEHICLES

Of the 62 miles of motorable roads in the Dependency, 44 are in Grand Cayman and 18 in Cayman Brac. Little Cayman is served by footpaths only. In Grand Cayman the principal road, approximately 30 miles in length, closely follows the line of the coast from Boatswain Bay to the north-west, through West Bay, Georgetown and Boddentown, to East End on the south-east coast. This connects all the larger settlements with the exception of Northside, which is served by a branch road which takes in Old Man Bay and joins the main road on the south coast at Frank Sound. The roads are poor, having been built with no drainage, this usually being impracticable, and without camber; they are surfaced with a mixture of limestone, marl and coral sand, and are therefore at the mercy of weather and traffic. It has been estimated that it would cost £100,000 to provide Grand Cayman alone with a proper road system, and this is quite beyond the financial resources of the Dependency.

Plans are under consideration for major improvement of the road system, it is hoped with the assistance of Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

There are no regular omnibus services in Grand Cayman, but a number of motor vehicles make regular journeys from the country districts, carrying passengers, firewood, thatch rope and agricultural produce, and, on the return journey, stores and passengers. In Cayman Brac two lorries have been converted into omnibuses, and maintain a regular service from one end of the island to the other. There are approximately 200 privately owned motor cars, trucks, and station wagons in the Dependency. Much use is made of bicycles.

#### AIR SERVICES

At the end of 1954 the Dependency was served by two airlines, British West Indian Airways, (a subsidiary of B.O.A.C.), and LACSA (Lineas Aereas Costarricenses—an affiliate of Pan American Airways). British West Indian Airways maintains a weekly service, Kingston—Grand Cayman—Miami and return, and a weekly service, Kingston—Grand Cayman—Belize (British Honduras) and return. LACSA operated a weekly service, Panama City—San José (Costa Rica), Grand Cayman—Miami, with a return flight covering the same route on the next following day. Traffic at the end of 1954 was double the 1953 level and there is no doubt that the services of both airlines have been invaluable to the Dependency's development. Considerable use was made of the Grand Cayman airfield by freighter aircraft operated by LACSA, the Island being a useful refuelling point for heavily laden south-bound cargo planes (see also Part I).

At the end of 1954 a small airstrip had been completed in the Island of Cayman Brac and plans were well advanced for the commencement of a regular light aircraft service between Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac.

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

No cable communication exists and there are no inland telegraphs. There is a wireless station at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, with a range of 1,000 miles and a smaller station at Cayman Brae with a range of 150 miles. Both stations work fixed schedules daily with Jamaica and messages are transmitted between Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac twice daily. The station at Grand Cayman also transmits meteorological reports to Havana, Cuba, every morning and evening.

There are inefficient telephone systems in both Grand Cayman and Cayman Brae: there are no private subscribers.

The Wireless Station equipment is obsolescent and badly requires replacement. It is hoped in due course to replace the present inadequate equipment, and to institute a radio telephone service in conjunction with International Aeradio (Caribbean) Limited, who are responsible for aeradio communications at the airport and whose technical services, if used in conjunction with Government, would remove much of the present difficulty of maintaining proper communications with the outside world.

## Chapter 12 : Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

### PRESS

No newspapers are published in the Dependency. The only periodical published is a religious tract *The Gospel of the Kingdom*, printed by the Cayman Gospel Press. This appears monthly and carries a very small amount of purely domestic news. The *Daily Gleaner*, published in Kingston, reaches Grand Cayman twice weekly by air and has a fair circulation.

### FILMS

There is one open-air cinema in Georgetown, Grand Cayman, which is open five nights a week; and one in Cayman Brac, which is operated in a hall above a store.

### OTHER SERVICES

There are no broadcasting or Government information services.

## PART III

### Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

#### GEOGRAPHY

THE Cayman Islands consist of three islands—Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman—which lie in the Caribbean Sea between  $19^{\circ} 15'$  and  $19^{\circ} 45'$  north latitude and  $79^{\circ} 44'$  and  $81^{\circ} 27'$  west longitude. The islands are projecting peaks of the Cayman Ridge, a range of submarine mountains continuous with the Sierra Maestra Range of Cuba and running west to the Misteriosa Bank in the direction of British Honduras.

*Grand Cayman*, which is situated about 180 miles west-north-west of the westernmost point of Jamaica and about 150 miles south of Cuba, is roughly 22 miles long from east to west with a maximum width of about eight miles. Its most striking topographical feature is the shallow reef-protected harbour of North Sound which is seven and a half miles long by six miles wide and which almost cuts the island into two parts. The area of Grand Cayman is approximately 76 square miles. The island is divided into six districts, viz., Georgetown (population 1,462), West Bay (population 1,866), Prospect (population 414), Boddentown (population 618), Northside (population 387) and East End (population 564).

*Cayman Brac*, which lies 69 miles north-east of Grand Cayman, is the most elevated and the most striking in appearance. It is about 12 miles in length, with an average width of a little over a mile and an area of approximately 14 square miles. Cayman Brac is divided into four districts: Stake Bay, West End, Creek and Spot Bay.

*Little Cayman*, five miles to the westward of Cayman Brac, is 10 miles long with a maximum width of two miles and an area of about 10 square miles. Little Cayman is divided into two districts: South Town and Jacksons.

In his *Geology of the Cayman Islands*, Dr. C. A. Matley, describes the islands as follows:

“All the islands are low-lying, and do not attain anywhere a height of more than 60 feet above sea-level, except Cayman Brac, the eastern end of which rises to 140 feet. Viewed from the sea, they have a general resemblance to the flat-topped islands of the Bahama group. They are formed entirely of calcareous rocks, which the present survey has shown to be separable into two formations. An older limestone, which I call the Bluff Limestone forms the central and larger part of each island; and a younger formation of consolidated coral-sand and marl, with some limestone, which I call the Ironshore Formation, occupies most of the periphery as a low coastal terrace, and generally terminates abruptly inland against raised marine cliffs of the Bluff Limestone. In addition to the above are the recent deposits which, at sea, are living coral-reefs that almost surround the islands of Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, but occur only to a

limited extent at the south-west of Cayman Brae, and, ashore, consist of blown coral-sand and storm beaches of coral shingle piled up by winds, storms, and hurricanes on the seaward side of the coastal platform. All the islands are entirely devoid of streams, owing to the porosity of the limestones, and even dry valleys are absent."

Some ten miles west of Grand Cayman is an area of shoal water known as the Cayman Bank, which is five miles long and about half-a-mile wide, with depths of 15 to 20 fathoms. Its platform-like surface is surrounded on all sides by steep slopes.

South of the Cayman group, at distances varying from 25 to 50 miles, lies the Bartlett Deep which is some 50 to 90 miles wide and extends in an east-and-west direction from the Gulf of Honduras to Western Haiti. Ten soundings of over 3,000 fathoms have been obtained, the sounding south of Grand Cayman being 3,428 fathoms.

#### CLIMATE

The climate of the Cayman Islands is for the greater part of the year excellent as, lying in the latitude of the Trade Winds, there are few days of calm and the north-east breezes temper even the hottest days. Only when the wind veers to the south-east or south can the temperature be deemed oppressive.

The seasons are fairly well defined. The period May to October is the hot season, when the temperature ranges from 70° to 85° F. and the prevailing winds are from east to south. During this period the rainfall is comparatively heavy and mosquitoes can be a major pest. The cool season is from November to April when the range of temperature is 10° lower, and the prevailing winds from north-east to north-west. The pleasantest period is from mid-November to mid-March, when the weather is generally cool and there are few, if any, mosquitoes.

The total rainfall for the years 1953 and 1954 was 50.34 and 67.84 inches respectively, the average being around 60 inches per annum.

The hurricane season lasts from July to November, and the islands have been hit periodically. The last visitation of this kind was in October, 1944, though in October, 1952 the islands narrowly escaped severe damage, catching the edge of a hurricane whose centre passed only 40 miles to the west of Grand Cayman.

A meteorological station was erected in Georgetown, Grand Cayman, in 1935, by the Cuban Department of Agriculture, and trained observers from the National Observatory at Havana are stationed there throughout the year. Reports are exchanged twice daily with Havana, whence weather information is retransmitted throughout the Caribbean.

## Chapter 2: History

The islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman are said to have been discovered by Columbus in May, 1503, in the course of a voyage from Porto Bello, Panama, to Hispaniola (Haiti and Santo Domingo) and to have been named by him "Las Tortugas" on account of the numbers of marine turtle found around their shores. It is worthy of note that the islands, bearing no name, appear on the Cantino chart of 1503 in approximately their correct position.

No settlement appears to have been founded but the islands were frequently visited by vessels of all nations for revictualling purposes.

An account exists of a visit paid in 1643 by the vessels under the command of Captain William Jackson after his abortive attempt on Jamaica. His description of Grand Cayman reads:

"This place is low land and all rockye, and there be other 2 Islands of ye same name and Quallitie, being by ye Spaniards called Chimanoe, from ye multitude of Alligators here found which are Serpents, if not resembling ye Crocodiles of Egypt. Hither doe infinitt numbers of sea tortoises resorte to lay their eggs upon ye Sandy Bay, which at this time (June) swarm so thick. The Island is much frequented by English, Dutch and French ships, that come purposely to salt up ye flesh of these Tortoises."

Jamaica was taken in 1655 and the Cayman Islands became a regular source of food supply for the soldiers and fleets of England cruising the Caribbean. Eventually, by the Treaty of Madrid in 1670, Jamaica was ceded to the British Crown and with it the Cayman Islands. There does not, however, appear to have been any serious settlement until the early part of the eighteenth century, although it is apparent that from time to time there were parties of residents chiefly composed of shipwrecked sailors, beach-combers, and possibly marooned mariners.

The islands were, for a period, a place of resort for pirates, and the name of the islands is to be found frequently in pirate literature. Teach (Blackbeard) who was clearly not above snapping up unconsidered trifles, is recorded as having taken "a small turtler" at Grand Cayman, and the following extract from Johnson's *General History of the Pirates* is illustrating:

"I should have observed, that when the *Lucretia* and *Katherine* was suffered to go away, the Pyrates detained their Mate, who was now the only man aboard, who understood navigation, and him they desired to take upon him the Command of the Sloop, in the room of Captain Evans deceased: but he desired to be excus'd that Honour, and at length positively refused it; so they agreed to break up the Company, and leave the Mate in Possession of the Vessel: accordingly they went ashore at the Caimanes, carrying with them about nine thousand pounds amongst thirty persons: and it being fair Weather, the Mate and a Boy brought the vessel into *Port Royal*, in *Jamaica*."

This extract relates to the year 1722.

The earliest record of a grant of land being made to the first settlers is in 1734, followed by further patents in 1741. The families of "Bodden" and "Foster" are in all probability direct descendants from these patentees, some of whom bore these names.

The origin of the name "Cayman" has been the subject of much speculation, a likely theory being that parties coming ashore from visiting ships in search of turtle named the islands after the caimans, or alligators, which they found there. Alligators are said to have been seen in Little Cayman in recent times. It may possibly have some bearing on the subject that the iguana is still found, though very infrequently, in all three islands.

## Chapter 3: Administration

In the early days of settlement, public affairs were administered by Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The Justices functioned under the direction of one of their number whom they themselves selected and who was styled "Governor." In 1852 the principle of representative government was accepted and elected members known as Vestrymen were added to the administrative body. At the same time the title "Custos" was substituted for that of "Governor."

An Act of Parliament, passed in 1863, provided for the ratification of all prior acts of the local body receiving the assent of the Government of Jamaica. Under this authority, 20 acts, passed between 1832 and 1864, were submitted to the Governor of Jamaica whose assent to them was given in 1865. It was further provided in the Act that the Justices and Vestry should continue to exercise legislative powers, their enactments being subject to the assent of the Governor of Jamaica. Under the same authority the Legislative of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Dependency, and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed.

In 1898 the powers of the Custos were vested in a Commissioner who combines administrative duties with those of a Judge of the Grand Court. He is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The seat of Government is at Georgetown, where the Commissioner resides.

The present Legislative Assembly of Justices and Vestry consists of the Commissioner as President, 27 Justices of the Peace, and 27 Vestrymen. The Justices of the Peace are commissioned in a General Commission of the Peace by the Governor of Jamaica, the latest Commission being dated 19th August, 1952, when 28 Justices of the Peace (including the Commissioner) were appointed.

The election of Vestrymen is held every two years, and is governed by an Act of 1832 which provided that "upon requisition of the Custos or Senior Magistrate, the Magistrates in the district shall call the people together and proceed to elect Vestrymen to serve for two years." Whereas women would appear to be included in the electorate it has long been the practice for male taxpayers only to vote, the latter being defined in Law 5 of 1927 as "male persons between the ages of 18 and 60 years." The last election was held in August, 1954.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
*President: A. M. Gerrard, Commissioner.*

<i>Justices of the Peace (ex-officio members)</i>	<i>Vestrymen (elected)</i>	<i>Area Represented</i>
Edwin Walton	O. L. Panton	Georgetown
J. N. Tibbets	E. D. Merren	„
A. C. Panton, M.B.E.	H. M. Coe	„
A. S. Rutty, M.B.E.	A. V. Anderson	„
R. B. Bodden, M.B.E.	W. W. Bodden	„
E. S. Parsons	J. G. Smith	West Bay
Charles Glidden	J. P. Powell	„
A. B. Conolly	J. C. Ebanks	„
W. T. Foster	J. S. Banks	„
T. W. Farrington	D. Bush	„
E. O. Panton	A. B. Bodden	Boddentown
T. L. Bodden	G. H. Ricketts	„
T. F. Hill, I.S.M.	W. B. McCoy	„
R. P. Bodden	William Wood	„
T. A. Ebanks	Anton Bodden	„
J. C. Lazzard	L. Eden	Prospect
J. R. Watler	W. C. Watler	„
R. B. Kirkconnell	L. Thompson	„
J. S. Smith	W. W. Conolly	East End
D. V. Watler	W. A. McLaughlin	„
J. A. Panton	N. R. McLaughlin	„
S. O. Ebanks	Craddock Ebanks	Northside
G. L. Lawrence	S. A. Powery	„
Bertram Ebanks	A. A. Foster	Lesser Islands
E. M. Forbes	R. C. Foster	„
L. A. Ebanks	C. G. Kirkconnell	„
D. H. Foster	R. E. McTaggart	„

## Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are used throughout the Dependency.

## Chapter 5: Reading List

*Notes on the History of the Cayman Islands.* Dr. GEORGE S. S. HIRST. Jamaica, printed privately, circa 1910.

*The Cayman Islands: Their Stamps and Post Office.* D. B. ARMSTRONG. Junior Philatelic Society, 1911.

*Birds of the Cayman Islands.* R. P. LOWE. Ibis, 1911.

*The Postage Stamps of the Cayman Islands.* F. J. MELVILLE. Gibbons, 1914.

“ Geology of the Cayman Islands,” by S. A. MATLEY in *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society*, Vol. LXXXII, 1926.

*The Herpetology of the Cayman Islands.* CHAPMAN GRANT. Institute of Jamaica, 1940.

*Forestry in the Cayman Islands.* CHRISTOPHER SWABY and C. BERNARD LEWIS. Development and Welfare in the West Indies, Bulletin No. 23.

*The Fisheries of the Cayman Islands.* ERNEST F. THOMPSON. Development and Welfare in the West Indies, Bulletin No. 22.

*A Physical and Cultural Geography of the Cayman Islands.* EDWIN BEALE DORAN, Jv. 1953 (Unpublished)\*

\* Copies of this work are available for study at the Commissioner's Office, Grand Cayman; the Library of the University of California, Berkeley, California; The West India Reference Library, Institute of Jamaica, Kingston, Jamaica. Microfilms are available at the British Museum, and at the Colonial Office Library.

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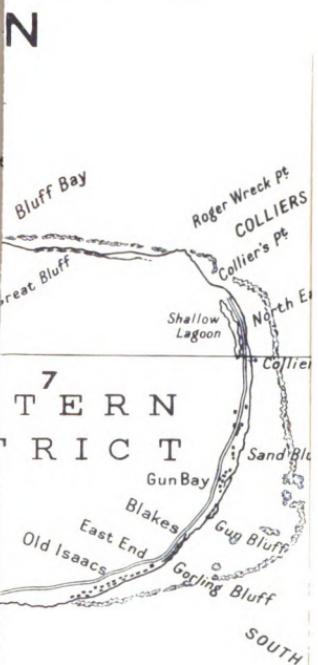
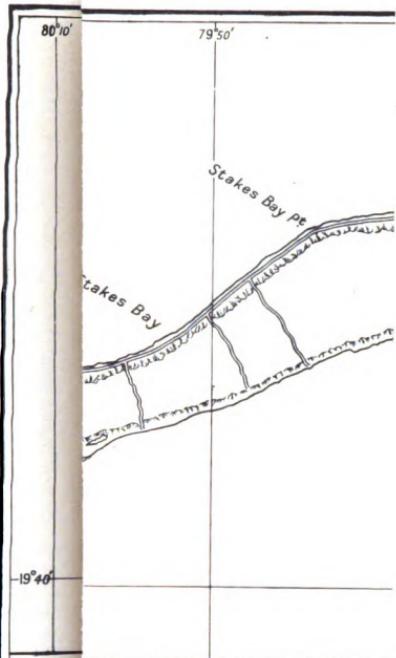
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# Cayman Islands

## 1955 and 1956

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# CAYMAN ISLANDS

*(DEPENDENCY OF JAMAICA)*

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Report for the years  
1955 & 1956

*LONDON*  
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1957

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## PART I

### General Review

THE notable feature of the years 1955 and 1956 was the continuing and increased prosperity of the Dependency. Recruitment of seamen for service with overseas shipping continued unabated, and there was further expansion of the Dependency's tourist business, which in the winter season is already greater than the hotels can cope with: there was also a small but steady tourist business throughout the summer of 1956—a new and welcome development.

The basis of the Dependency's economy remains the export of seamen, whose remittances to the Cayman Islands at the end of 1956 amounted to a figure in the region of one and a half million United States dollars a year. Most of these men are employed on tankers and bulk cargo ships; as the world-wide demand for such tonnage keeps increasing, so there is a steady increase in the opportunities available to Caymanian seamen for well-paid employment, and (for the more ambitious) promotion to better-paid employment. The great disadvantage to the Dependency in this somewhat specialised manner of earning a living is that the islands lose many of their best and many of their skilled men, and are progressively losing that invaluable element in any community—those men of wider experience, wider ability and wider vision who are prepared to take an unselfish part in the conduct of public affairs. It is a great pity that the Dependency cannot have its prosperity at a less high price than it is at present paying, where the men left in the islands represent a progressively smaller proportion of the population.

The Dependency's principal problem in 1955 and 1956 has therefore been shortage of labour. The Dependency needs labour for its own development, and the labour resources available (both skilled and unskilled) are wholly inadequate. An indication of the position is that with some hundreds of Caymanians occupying responsible positions in the engine rooms of vessels of up to eighty thousand tons, the number of reasonably qualified mechanics in the islands can be counted on one hand. The islands' labour force is occupied almost entirely in distribution and in the building trades.

The more cheerful side of the picture is the vigorous evidence of the solid ties which link Caymanians to their native islands. The tendency in the past has been for the successful islander to stay away, making his home elsewhere, and returning (if at all) only in old age. The tendency today is for the departing seaman to set himself the immediate object of accumulating enough money to build himself a good, solid house; to furnish it; to make further voyages to accumulate capital for a motor car and refrigerator, and to continue this

process until all reasonable and legitimate aspirations of this character are satisfied, and are fortified by an adequate bank balance. During the process his dependants are kept reasonably happy by being provided with the wherewithal to study, and to use, those perennially fascinating volumes with which each ocean mail deluges the Dependency—the mail order catalogue. Even the hitherto poorest districts are now undergoing transformation. Cabins and shacks are being replaced by well-built concrete houses, and the improvement in housing is everywhere accompanied by a startling improvement in dress, diet, and living standards generally. It is fair to say that there is no poverty in the Cayman Islands today, except amongst a few of the aged, and a few of the incorrigibly shiftless. This is a statement which it would have been impossible to make even three years ago.

An indication of the general level of prosperity is that every ship arriving in the Dependency has all deck space occupied by motor vehicles; there is a permanent backlog of vehicles awaiting shipment. The land space of the islands is small, the roads narrow and inadequate, and the situation has already arisen where there are far more motor vehicles in the Dependency than the Dependency can conveniently handle. Plans are being made for a radical improvement in the road system.

#### AIR SERVICES

There was further extensive development of air services during 1956, and at the end of that year the Dependency had three services each week to and from Jamaica, four services each week to and from Miami, and two services each week to and from Central America. The most gratifying single development was, however, an internal one—the commencement and (what has been much more difficult) the continuance of a regular scheduled air service between Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac: the airstrip which had been built in the latter island was of sufficient length to permit flying operations to begin in June, 1955, and was thereafter steadily extended till at the end of 1956 it was 2,400 feet in length, about one thousand feet of which was asphalted. The service between the two islands is provided by Cayman Brac Airways, Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the national airline of Costa Rica and an affiliate of Pan American Airways. The Company possesses only one aircraft—a twin-engined six seater Cessna T50, which makes two flights weekly in each direction, with additional flights as traffic may warrant. The Company lost heavily in its first year of existence, and continues to operate at a serious loss, part of which is borne by the parent Company and part by the Cayman Islands Government which in 1955-1956 provided a subsidy of £4,000 to the Company. Future prospects are good, and the economic position of the Lesser Islands since the airline began operations has improved remarkably. This economic development has caused a visible rise in Government revenues derived from the

Lesser Islands, and there can be no doubt that the heavy subsidy is not only justified, but is to a great extent offset by the increased revenue which the existence of better communications has generated. The new airline has also been a boon to the inhabitants of the Lesser Islands in that serious medical cases can be transported to Grand Cayman without delay.

#### TOURISM

The attractions of the Dependency as a tourist resort were greatly increased by the opening, on 1st January, 1956, of the new Galleon Beach Hotel, a £200,000 structure which has accommodation for 60 guests, and which is one of the finest hotel buildings in the West Indies. The new hotel is situated in the centre of the splendid unbroken sweep of the West Beach in Grand Cayman. In Cayman Brac the existence of the new air service encouraged a far-sighted local shipowner to open a small modern guest house, which he almost immediately began to double in size: the Buccaneer's Inn now has accommodation for 24 guests and has opened up to tourists this distinctively clean, tidy and well-ordered island, which, with Little Cayman, has great attractions for the game fisherman.

#### POWER SUPPLIES

Another valuable development in Grand Cayman was the complete reorganisation of the local power company, the installation of new generating and transmission equipment, and the extension of power to West Bay. At the end of 1956 transmission lines had reached the centre of West Bay and connections with residential and business premises were being made. The Company has installed two Fairbanks Morse 100 kw generators and ancillary equipment in buildings purchased from the Colonial Development Corporation, which previously housed the Corporation's turtle soup cannery. Generating capacity is now 320 kw, and negotiations have been completed for the purchase of an additional 250 kw generator; it is however evident that the already greatly expanded generating capacity will be inadequate in view of the very heavy extra demand. This demand has come about through the provision of a full 24-hour service free from the regular breakdowns which were a characteristic of past years. These had come almost to be accepted as the normal state of affairs.

Ice manufacture is also being undertaken by the Power Company, and ice will be available in commercial quantities early in 1957. Meanwhile a small but valuable cold storage plant is being run in conjunction with the Company. This has done much to ease the perennial shortage of fresh foodstuffs in Grand Cayman.

#### SCHOOL AND ROAD PLANS

In 1956 plans were drawn up for a new Government elementary school in Georgetown, to replace the present school premises, and it was hoped that construction could begin in 1957. Plans were also

drawn up to improve the Dependency's road system to parallel, in internal communications, the astonishing development of the Dependency's external communications. Grand Cayman was visited for this purpose by the Director of Public Works, Jamaica, and with the generous co-operation of the Chief Minister, and of the Minister of Communications and Works, Jamaica, a survey party worked tirelessly for four months preparing detailed plans, specifications, and estimates for the projected work. It was hoped to commence work in 1957.

Both these projects will represent a heavy financial burden on the Dependency, and it is expected that some assistance will be forthcoming from Colonial Development and Welfare sources. Meanwhile as an earnest of active good intentions provision has been made in the Dependency's Estimates for road funds for Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac, involving extra appropriations totalling £7,000 per annum, which can be used to service loans or for other purposes as may be necessary.

#### RELATIONS WITH JAMAICA

As in previous years the Government of Jamaica, while meticulously respecting the Dependency's autonomy, provided invaluable assistance in the shape of technical, legal and professional advice and by the secondment of trained personnel. There is a growing realisation in the Dependency of the extent to which it is indebted to the Government of Jamaica for the provision of central services, and a growing appreciation of the valuable aspects of a generous relationship which (as in the case of the road survey) can so readily provide technical assistance for which otherwise the Dependency would have to resort to outside interests on a purely commercial basis.

#### MOSQUITO CAMPAIGN

In 1956 the first stage of attack was launched on the hordes of mosquitoes which are apt to infest the islands during the summer months and which are the principal handicap to tourist development, and the historic source of irritation to local residents. A Todd Insecticidal Fog Applicator was purchased, which, mounted on the back of a truck and distributing a lethal mist of D.D.T. and diesel oil, achieved startling (though short-term) results; mosquitoes were annihilated for a period of 24 hours, and were severely discouraged for several following days. Pundits claim that the success achieved may be influenced by the uncommonly dry weather which was a feature of 1956, and are quick to improve upon the obvious by pointing out that fogging is a palliative and not a cure. The object of the exercise has, however, been to find a reasonably cheap method of suppressing a nuisance, and keeping it within reasonable bounds. Within these limits the results are gratifying, and if further funds can be provided there is no reason why the mosquito nuisance cannot be kept under permanent control.

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

In 1955 and 1956 the financial position of the Dependency showed further improvement, and for the first time in history revenue in both financial years exceeded £100,000. A striking illustration of the progress which has been made is that the revenue figure as recently as 1950 was a mere £36,936. This increase has naturally been accompanied by an expansion in expenditure, and an expansion in public services generally; this placed an increasing strain on the small and overworked Government staff, whose salaries were low. The Dependency found it impossible to cope with the situation created by a steady flow of resignations and an acute shortage of desirable recruits to the service, and in both 1955 and 1956 a revised salary structure was approved by the Legislative Assembly and brought into effect. The Dependency's salary structure can now be compared not unfavourably with that of other West Indian territories and it is reasonable to expect some degree of stability in the future.

Increased Government revenues came principally from increased imports financed by the remittances of seamen and by tourist expenditure. This, coupled with a continued improvement in the system of collecting customs revenue, resulted in customs receipts increasing by no less than 20 per cent in each financial year. Collection is, nevertheless, still based on an outdated and inefficient system conceived in the early part of the century when imports were negligible, and there is still extensive room for improvement. This involves building a proper warehouse.

There was also a marked increase in administrative efficiency as a result of the introduction of machine accounting in the Treasury, and the institution of a proper system of audit. The Dependency's current accounts are therefore in excellent order, though work continues unremittingly on the difficult task of clearing up past financial transactions. Expert assistance was given in both years by Mr. C. I. Phillips of the Ministry of Finance, Jamaica.

The Dependency's improved air communications have brought into being a much heavier volume of air mails received and despatched, and the postal staff had to be increased in both years to handle it.

**GRAND CAYMAN AIRPORT**

In April, 1956, the Grand Cayman Airport was handed over completely to the control of the Cayman Islands Corporation, a body which is now on a self-financing basis, and which retains all airfield revenues for its own purposes—principally the maintenance and improvement of the Owen Roberts Field, its terminal buildings and other facilities. Landing fees for aircraft were increased during the year, and the Corporation is accumulating a comfortable surplus which can be used for future capital development. All aeronautical radio services were, as before, provided by International Aeradio

(Caribbean) Limited, and during the period under review both facilities and equipment were improved and extended. As part of the Cooperative Meteorological Observation Project of the United States Weather Bureau and the British Caribbean Meteorological Service, the object of which is hurricane research, a Radiosonde station was built at the airport, and came into operation in August, 1956. This is staffed by an Officer of the United States Weather Bureau, and by four Meteorological Assistants provided by the British Caribbean Meteorological Service. It is one of a series of stations in the Caribbean, and it is a matter for satisfaction that the Grand Cayman station was, in spite of equipment delays and difficulties, the first of the new stations to operate on a regular reporting basis.

#### WEATHER AND WATER

The islands were fortunate in both years in being relatively untroubled by hurricanes, whose distant passage did little more than cause high seas and a little minor damage to roads and crops. Rainfall caused some concern; the Georgetown figures for both years are well below normal. Even so, the Georgetown area received a higher proportion of rain than the Eastern Districts of Grand Cayman and the Lesser Islands (which both suffered from drought) and at the end of 1956 domestic cisterns were ill-filled to see their owners through the coming dry season. It is difficult to explain the odd distribution of rainfall—a deluge in Georgetown quite regularly left the West Beach and South Sound, less than two miles away, bone dry. It is becoming increasingly evident that a good natural water supply will be an important factor in the Dependency's future development: drilling operations have revealed excellent underground reserves in the Eastern Districts, but the results of similar drilling on the West Beach (where a good supply would be most immediately valuable) are discouraging. Much further drilling needs to be done before any definite conclusion can be drawn.

#### VISITS

During 1955 and 1956 Grand Cayman was visited by H.M.S. *Veryan Bay*, H.M.S. *Morecambe Bay*, H.M.S. *Burghead Bay*, H.M.S. *Bigbury Bay*, and, in both years, H.M.S. *Vidal*. H.M.S. *Vidal* did invaluable work in re-charting the Georgetown anchorage and a potential port area in the North Sound: the ship's helicopter (the first to be seen in the Dependency) caused a mixture of consternation and delight to the local people, and with the courtesy and efficiency for which the Royal Navy is justly famed, the helicopter and ground parties solved in a matter of moments several knotty survey problems which had bedevilled the Commissioner for many months. These were in connection with location of a projected extra radio beacon for aircraft, and the possible location of towers for an overseas

radio-telephone, the prospects of which were still under examination at the end of the year. The Dependency was also on five occasions visited by His Excellency the Governor of Jamaica, Sir Hugh Foot, who was accompanied on two occasions by Lady Foot. The new air service to the Lesser Islands permitted His Excellency to make a day visit to Cayman Brac. His Excellency and Lady Foot were everywhere given a warm and enthusiastic welcome by the people. Grand Cayman was also visited in December, 1956, by the Danish Training Ship *Danmark*.

At the end of 1956 Major A. H. Donald, was named Commissioner-Designate of the Dependency, to relieve Mr. A. M. Gerrard, Commissioner since 1952.

## PART II

### *Chapter 1: Population*

THE earliest record relates to the year 1774, when the total population was estimated to be 176. By 1802, when a census was undertaken by an officer appointed for that purpose by the Governor of Jamaica, the total had risen to 933, of whom 545 were slaves. The figures for 1891, 1911, 1921 and 1934 were 4,322, 5,564, 5,253 and 6,009 respectively.

A census of Jamaica and its Dependencies financed by Her Majesty's Government and directed by Mr. A. J. Pelletier, Chief of Census, Canadian Bureau of Statistics, was taken in January, 1943. The method employed on this occasion provided for the enumeration of the considerable number of men absent at sea and abroad. This census showed the population of the Dependency to be 6,670, which was the highest in its history. The detailed figures were as follows:

		Male	Female	Total
Grand Cayman	:	2,322	2,989	5,311
Cayman Brac	:	604	692	1,296
Little Cayman	:	29	34	63
		<u>2,955</u>	<u>3,715</u>	<u>6,670</u>

Of this total, 1,052 were of African, 3,518 of mixed and 2,100 of European descent. The islands are unique in the West Indies in their high proportion of inhabitants of European descent.

This 1943 census revealed the number of males per 100 females to be 80, as against 70 in 1934 and 73 in 1921. On both the earlier occasions, however, absent males were not taken into account. During 1954 a sample survey of population was undertaken by officers of the Central Bureau of Statistics, Jamaica, in both Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac. The results are not yet available.

The population at the end of 1956 was estimated to be 9,045, comprising 7,349 persons in Grand Cayman and 1,696 in the Lesser Islands. Birth, death, and marriage rates per 1,000 population for the years 1952-1956 were as follows:

Year	Total Births	Rate per thousand	Total Deaths	Rate per thousand	Total Marriages	Rate per thousand
1952	197	25.80	46	6.00	45	5.88
1953	244	30.9	32	4.1	58	7.34
1954	237	29.43	48	6.00	50	6.21
1955	226	27.47	52	6.30	60	7.29
1956	235	25.98	62	5.75	79	8.95

Statistics of migration during the same period are given opposite.

Year	Inward	Outward	Plus or Minus
1952	1,741	1,879	— 138
1953	1,878	2,234	— 356
1954	1,909	2,071	— 162
1955	2,486	2,266	+ 220
1956	3,218	2,572	+ 646

Any account of the population of the Dependency would be misleading if attention were not drawn to the steady emigration which has occurred throughout the past 77 years. Up to the turn of the century many Caymanians migrated to the Central American Republics (principally Nicaragua and Spanish Honduras, where there are still Caymanian communities) and to Cuba. After the turn of the century, large numbers migrated to the United States, the initial impetus being given by the opportunities of employment offered by the construction of the Florida East Coast Railway between 1903 and 1912. With the spectacular development of Florida which has since taken place, more and more Caymanians have been drawn to the United States: it is now probable that there are permanently resident overseas (principally in the United States and most as United States citizens) more Caymanians or persons of Caymanian parentage than there are in the islands. Immigration restrictions have slowed down the drift to the United States.

## Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

### OCCUPATIONS AND WAGES

No labour statistics are available other than those prepared in connection with the 1943 census. Those figures are so out-of-date that they are misleading and are therefore omitted.

A very high proportion of the adult male population of the Cayman Islands is engaged in seafaring in various capacities in vessels plying all over the world (see also p.3). These seamen received wages varying from £35 per month to (in the case of qualified deck and engineering staff) as much as £225 per month. The male group aged 20 to 50 years is therefore conspicuous in the islands by its absence, with the result that male labour is a scarce commodity. There is no unemployment.

Rates for unskilled labour vary between 13s. and 20s. a day: stevedores are paid 1s. 7½d. per hour; carpenters and masons between £2 and £4 per day according to their capacities. Female shop assistants receive on the average £6 per month, and domestic servants between £4 and £10 per month, usually with partial board. The thatch rope industry is mainly a female occupation, and earnings

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are between £1 2s. 6d. and £1 10s. per week; persons engaged in the manufacture of rope are invariably self-employed.

In most occupations there is a 40-hour working week, though store clerks and shop assistants normally work a 50-hour week.

#### COST OF LIVING

The cost of living is high, mainly because the attractions of seafaring have caused a virtual abandonment of agriculture. The Dependency therefore produces only a small proportion of its foodstuffs, most of which are imported from Jamaica and the United States. The basic items of diet are bread, rice, beans, corn meal, sugar and coffee, supplemented by locally grown vegetables (such as yams, cassava, bread-fruit, pumpkins), fruit, fresh and salt meat and fish and the traditional turtle. Prices of staple commodities at the end of 1954 and 1956 were as follows:

Commodity	Unit	Price	
		1954	1956
Flour	per pound	10d.	10d.
Corn meal	per pound	9d.	9d.
Sugar (White)	per pound	8d.	8d.
Beans	per pound	1s. 6d.	1s. 6d.
Rice (Patna)	per pound	1s. 5d.	1s. 5d.
Fresh Beef	per pound	1s. 7d.	2s. 0d. to 2s. 6d.
Fresh Pork	per pound	1s. 7d.	2s. 0d. to 2s. 6d.
Fresh Fish	per pound	1s. 0d.	1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d.
Salt Beef	per pound	2s. 8d.	2s. 8d.
Codfish	per pound	2s. 6d.	2s. 6d.
Kerosene	per gallon	2s. 9d.	3s. 0d.
Matches	per box	1d.	1d.
Tobacco leaf	per pound	8s. 3d.	8s. 6d.
Cigarettes	per packet of 20	1s. 3d.	1s. 3d.

Prices have become reasonably stable, and are in general about 225 per cent above those in 1939. Between 1954 and 1956 most of the cumbersome machinery of price control was removed, and control is now restricted to beans, cigarettes, coffee, corn meal, flour, gasoline, kerosene, lard, milk, rice, sugar and salt.

The cost of running a house for a European or American married couple, including food, servants' wages, laundry, rent of a furnished house, lighting and a moderate amount of entertaining, would be between £80 and £100 per month. The rates of the hotels in Grand Cayman are as follows:

#### Galleon Beach Hotel:

<i>Winter rates only</i> —Single Room ..	£8 15s. 0d. per day.
Double Room ..	£15 15s. 0d. per day.

#### Galleon Beach Club:

<i>Winter rates only</i> —Single Room ..	£7 0s. 0d. per day.
Double Room ..	£5 7s. 6d. per person per day.

#### Sea View Lodge:

<i>Winter rates</i>	£2 16s. 0d. to £4 4s. 0d. per day.
<i>Summer rates</i>	£1 15s. 0d. to £2 16s. 0d. per day.

**Pageant Beach Hotel:**

<i>Winter rates</i>	Single—£4 4s. 0d. per day. Double—£7 17s. 6d. per day.
<i>Summer rates</i>	Single—£2 16s. 0d. to £4 4s. per day. Double—£4 7s. 6d. to £7 per day.

**Bay View Hotel:**

<i>Rates throughout the year</i>	Single—£2 2s. 0d., £2 9s. 0d. and £3 10s. 0d. per day.
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**Windsor House:**

<i>Winter rates</i>	Single—£3 10s. 0d. per day. Double—£7 0s. 0d. per day.
<i>Summer rates</i>	Single—£2 2s. 0d. per day. Double—£3 10s. 0d. per day.

**The Buccaneer's Inn, Cayman Brac:**

<i>Winter rates</i>	Single—£2 16s. 0d. to £4 18s. 0d. per day. Double—£4 18s. 0d. to £7 per day.
<i>Summer rates</i>	Single—£1 15s. 0d. per day. Double—£3 3s. 0d. per day.

**LABOUR LEGISLATION**

The Trade Union Law of 1942 provides for the formation, registration, rights, powers and control of trade unions, but none has in fact been formed. In December, 1946, the Minimum Wage Law was passed, and Regulations made thereunder were approved by the Governor in July, 1947. This law gives power to fix a minimum wage for employees where the wages paid are unreasonably low: no orders have yet been made under it. There is no factory legislation.

***Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation*****REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE**

THE revenue and expenditure of the Dependency for the past six years are set out below:

	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
	£	£
1951-52	42,459	58,640
1952-53	53,613	51,738
1953-54	64,854	75,284*
1954-55	86,947	71,327
1955-56	104,551	84,909
1956-57	111,325†	109,990†

\*Includes £12,000 capital expenditure on new hospital.

†Revised Estimates.

The above figures do not include Colonial Development and Welfare revenue and expenditure.

## PUBLIC DEBT

The following table shows the position of loans at 31st December, 1956:

Designation and Amount of Loan	Balance Outstanding on 31st December, 1956	Remarks
	£ s. d.	
Hurricane Loan, 1933, £3,600 3%	238 16 10	Repayable to Government of Jamaica in 20 years from 1st April, 1938.
Public Works Loan, 1938, £6,500 3½%	1,281 6 2	Repayable to Government of Jamaica in 20 years from 1st April, 1940.

The former loan was incurred to repair the damage caused by the hurricane of 1932, and the latter to erect public buildings.

During 1952 a loan of £55,500 was raised by the Cayman Islands Corporation from the Colonial Development Corporation to finance airfield construction. At the end of 1956 the sum of £47,175 was outstanding. This loan is guaranteed by the Cayman Islands Government.

## RESERVE FUNDS

The Reserve and Replacement Funds of the Dependency stand at £44,264 12s. 7d. These are as follows:

<i>General Reserve Fund</i>	— £37,706 0s. 4d. as at 31st March, 1956.
<i>Hurricane Fund</i>	— £2,767 6s. 4d. as at 31st March, 1956.
<i>Public Buildings Replacement Fund</i>	— £3,366 19s. 2d. as at 31st December, 1956.
<i>Boat Replacement Fund</i>	— £424 6s. 9d. as at 31st December, 1956.

The assets of the first two funds are invested in British, Dominion and Colonial securities, held by the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations: all interest is re-invested. The assets of the two latter funds are held locally on Fixed Deposit with Barclays Bank, D.C.O.

## TAXATION

The two principal sources of revenue are import duties and receipts from the sale of postage stamps. Revenue from these sources for the past six years has been as follows:

	<i>Import Duties</i>	<i>Sale of Stamps</i>
	£	£
1951-52	. . .	27,816 5,957
1952-53	. . .	38,311 5,873
1953-54	. . .	43,977 9,845
1954-55	. . .	52,451 24,255
1955-56	. . .	68,068 17,713
1956-57	. . .	83,075* 9,500*

\*Revised Estimates.

Small taxes are levied on vehicles, bicycles, cattle, horses, dogs, firearms, boats, etc. Light dues are payable on shipping, and warehouse fees are collected from importers. There is no income tax, companies tax, land tax, estate duty or excise duty.

### Customs Tariff

Under the Customs Tariff Law most articles imported into the Dependency are subject to an *ad valorem* duty of 15 per cent, cost, insurance and freight being taken into consideration in arriving at the value of dutiable articles. There is a preferential and a general tariff for some articles such as aerated waters, beer, butter, margarine, bicycles, cement, spirits, wines, tea and tobacco: duty under the preferential tariff is in the main at a rate of 15 per cent *ad valorem*, and under the general tariff at a rate of 20 per cent *ad valorem*. The following are examples of specific duties:

	<i>Preferential Tariff</i>	<i>General Tariff</i>
Beer, Porter, etc..	3s. 0d.	4s. 6d. per gallon
Spirits . . . . .	27s. 0d.	36s. 0d. per gallon
Cigarettes . . . . .	16s. 6d.	17s. 6d. per 1,000
Leaf Tobacco . . . . .	5d.	6d. per pound.
Wines . . . . .	6s. 0d.	11s. 0d. per gallon.

The above duties came into effect in 1952.

Certain articles are admitted free of customs duty, e.g. for the Armed Forces of the Crown or for the Commissioner, books, artificial limbs, wire screen cloth, mosquito netting, insecticides, fertilisers, etc.

### Tonnage Tax

The Tonnage Tax Law, 1947, levies a tax computed on gross weight on all articles imported into the Cayman Islands for use in the Dependency. The rates of duty vary from 3d. to 6d. per package on packages of not more than 100 lb. gross weight: on gasoline the tax is 1s. per 50 gallons; on lumber 5s. per 1,000 superficial feet; on shingles 2s. per 1,000; on tiles, slates and roofing materials 15s. per 1,000, and on metals 2s. per cwt. The tonnage tax produces about £3,000 per annum.

Legislation is in force to attract pioneer industries and to encourage the erection and equipment of hotels by granting exemption, under specified condition, from import duty and tonnage tax on all building materials and equipment.

### Stamp Duties

Under Law 9 of 1906, as amended in 1952, stamp duty ranging from 1d. to £4 4s. 0d. is payable on specified instruments and documents, such as agreements, bills of exchange, conveyances, deeds, leases, mortgages and receipts for money paid.

### Poll Tax

A personal tax of 8s. per year is imposed on every male person between the ages of 18 and 60 years. Collection of this tax was made more efficient in 1955 and 1956 by the introduction of a system of collection from departing seamen. The tax produces about £1,200 a year.

## *Chapter 4: Currency and Banking*

### CURRENCY

BRITISH silver and copper coins and Jamaican coins are in circulation. Silver coins are legal tender up to a value of 40s., and copper coins up to a value of 1s. Government of Jamaica notes of the denominations of £5, £1, 10s. and 5s. are in circulation, and are unlimited legal tender. At the end of 1956 it was estimated that currency to a total value of £82,990 was in circulation.

### BANKING

In March, 1953, a branch of Barclays Bank, Ltd. (Dominion, Colonial, Overseas), was opened in Grand Cayman. The banking facilities thus provided have been invaluable both to the commercial community and to the Government.

The Government continues to provide savings facilities in the shape of the Government Savings Bank, which conducts business in Georgetown, Grand Cayman and at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac. The Bank was established in 1908, and the Cayman Brac Branch was opened in 1934. On 31st March, 1956, there were 2,313 open accounts, and the amount standing to the credit of depositors was £177,528. This compares with 478 accounts totalling £15,158 in 1941 and 1,570 accounts totalling £116,829 in 1950.

## *Chapter 5: Commerce*

THE prosperity of the Dependency continues to be due principally to the fact that a large number of the Dependency's seamen are employed on tankers and bulk cargo ships. These seamen remit to the islands a considerable proportion of their earnings. Other factors are the earnings of motor vessels engaged in the turtle and shark fisheries and in Caribbean Gulf carrying trade. The tourist business continues to make a steadily increasing contribution.

The values of imports and exports for the past six years were as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Imports</i>	<i>Exports</i>
	£	£
1951	212,075	35,653
1952	260,100	64,490
1953	273,621	37,553
1954	287,954	37,693
1955	330,175	66,235
1956	450,610	60,710

The value and quantity of the principal imports were as follows:

Commodity	Quantity	1955		1956	
		Value £	Value £	Quantity	Value £
Flour (barrels) . .	4,115	19,270		4,810	20,440
Corn meal (barrels) . .	480	2,137		500	2,245
Rice (cwt) . .	570	3,045		332	3,197
Sugar (tons) . .	335	12,111		350	12,538
Textiles . .	—	21,450		—	23,710
Oil, Petrol (gallons) . .	83,722	7,985		93,570	8,710
Oil, Kerosene (gallons)	53,000	4,820		60,304	5,740

The principal exports were as follows:

Commodity	Quantity	1955		1956	
		Value £	Value £	Quantity	Value £
Turtles (no.) . .	4,053	20,265		4,109	20,545
Turtle Skin (lb.) . .	37,392	28,044		24,531	18,399
Rope (1,000 fathoms)	2,140	15,009		2,633	18,455
Turtle shell (lb.) . .	4,440	2,442		5,340	2,937
Shark skin (hides, no.) .	675	475		521	374

The trade of the Dependency is mainly with the United States and most imports come from this source. Sugar, coffee, cement, liquors, petrol, kerosene, aviation gasoline and condensed milk are imported almost exclusively from Jamaica.

There are no re-exports from the Dependency.

## Chapter 6: Production

### LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

It is impossible even to estimate the area of cultivable land in the Dependency: no cadastral survey has ever been undertaken, and in the past decade considerable areas which were once profitably cultivated have become overgrown and derelict. The islands are capable of producing a wide range of tropical fruits and vegetables, sometimes of exceptional quality (as in the case of citrus); but agriculture is handicapped by the fact that the Caymanian looks to the sea and not to the land as a means of earning a livelihood. As seafaring is so much more remunerative than agriculture, progressively more land goes out of cultivation because there is no labour to work it; as a consequence the islands have become almost wholly dependent on imported foodstuffs.

The best agricultural land is on the top of the Bluff in Cayman Brac, and at the eastern end of Grand Cayman, but nearly everywhere in the islands there are outcrops of decaying coral limestone, and it is doubtful if there is an acre of land in the Dependency which could be ploughed without fatal results to the plough. Pockets of loam are found amongst the older limestones, and these are of great

fertility. In Grand Cayman there is a large area of swamp, which is never entered. Extensive swamp reclamation is possible, but it is doubtful if reclamation is at present an economic proposition, though at the end of 1956 investors were examining the possibilities of the area near Georgetown, with an eye to hotel and residential development.

All land is individually owned, and there is no legislation on land usage and tenure. There is no system of land registration, a fact which gives rise to some litigation, but this is adequately dealt by the Courts. There has been a great deal of speculation in land during the past five years, and land values have risen considerably. Beach land is at a premium, and all land suitable for building has greatly increased in price. The general trend is for more and more land to pass into fewer hands, in some cases into the hands of absentee proprietors: in the absence of land taxes and of legislation in regard to land usage, the result is that a good deal of land on valuable sites goes to waste, and development is hampered accordingly.

#### AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Although fresh vegetables are imported from Florida and command a ready sale at high prices, no interest is taken by islanders in their production locally. An attempt was made to encourage agriculture under a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme, which was started in 1950, but economic conditions in the Dependency were, from the first, against the scheme, which was wound up in 1952. It seems clear that it is only by concentrating on animal husbandry that sound and lasting results can be obtained. Many islanders of the older generation who have retired from the sea take a particular pride in their cattle and pastures. The cattle industry is believed to have possibilities, if abandoned and overgrown pastures could be mechanically cleared and good pasturage restored. During 1956 heavy earthmoving equipment was brought to Grand Cayman by an American investor, and there are good prospects that it will be economically practicable to clear and rehabilitate many hundreds of acres of derelict pasture lands.

#### *Livestock*

The figures of livestock, as disclosed by the 1943 census, were as follows:

				No.
Horses	.	.	.	79
Donkeys	.	.	.	101
Cattle	.	.	.	1,858
Goats	.	.	.	118
Poultry	.	.	.	11,135
Pigs	.	.	.	397

These figures probably represent an underestimate because horses and cattle are subject to a small tax and would be under-declared by owners. Donkeys are a popular and cheap form of transport in

country districts. The common pasturage is guinea grass, which grows abundantly; in Cayman Brac considerable damage has been done to pastures by the introduction, presumably by way of seed in straw material used for packing, of an inferior grass, unacceptable to cattle. There appears to be no prospect of its eradication.

All livestock slaughtered is for local consumption; the demand for meat is far in excess of the supply.

#### FORESTRY

The principal forest products are mahogany and the thatch palm (*Thrinax Argentea*). The latter provides the raw material for the thatch rope industry, the Dependency's principal peasant industry. Mahogany is chiefly used, in the shape of natural "bends", in the boat building industry, but is now seldom obtainable for decking or house building.

There is no apparent need for any active forest policy for the Dependency, and none is in effect.

#### FISHERIES

Deep-sea fishing for turtle (and to a lesser extent shark) is the Dependency's main local industry. It is operated by the owners of the few remaining schooners; the catch is taken on the banks, shoals and cays off the coast of Honduras and Nicaragua. Turtle fishing is a skilled pursuit traditional to Caymanians and one in which they are expert. After capture green turtle are "crawled" in Grand Cayman and then exported alive to the United States by way of Key West and Tampa. The market for live turtle was good in both 1955 and 1956. Hawksbill turtle are captured for tortoiseshell, for which the market is moribund. It is likely to remain so; competition from plastics has already made hawksbill fishing wholly unremunerative as an independent pursuit, and the restricted supplies of shell which come on the market derive from the few hawksbill turtle caught in the process of fishing for green turtle. Shark skin and other shark products find a ready market in the United States.

In turtle fishing, the ship's company operates on the share principle. The owner of the vessel supplies the material for making nets, buoys, etc., and stores, while the crew provide their labour. From the gross proceeds of the catch a sum is paid to the Nicaraguan Government as royalty and the balance is divided between the crew and the owner. The crew pay for the stores supplied by the owner.

Coastwise fishing is undertaken by self-employed fishermen working in pairs, and their catch, which includes lobster, has a ready local sale. Demand for fresh fish exceeds the supply, and both canned fish and dried salt fish are imported extensively. In a report on the Fisheries of the Cayman Islands, written in 1946, Dr. E. F. Thompson stated:

"A very small amount of export could be taken locally, but there is far greater potential supply. The Cayman Islands are fitted by geographical position and seafaring tradition to exploit the fisheries resources of the Rosaline Bank, Mosquito Cays, Seranna and Seranilla Banks and the mass of small cays and islands in this region. From both theoretical reasoning and exhaustive information from practical fishermen it seems certain that these areas represent the chief potential source of fish within reach of Jamaica. At present these resources are not fished at all or only to a very limited extent. Fish from this source could be a partial solution to Jamaica's need for reducing her dependence on northern salt fish."

Up to the present no real attempt has been made to explore the fisheries resources of these banks, and it is impossible to say which is the correct one of the two contrary views—that the Caribbean is teeming with fish waiting for intelligent exploitation, or that the Caribbean is, from the point of view of commercial fishing, a marine desert. It is unlikely that anything can be done to build up a fishing industry until a research vessel has, by practical operation, shown whether fish exist in commercial quantity, and, if so, whether they could be economically marketed. This would involve heavy capital expenditure and there is no immediate prospect of such research being undertaken.

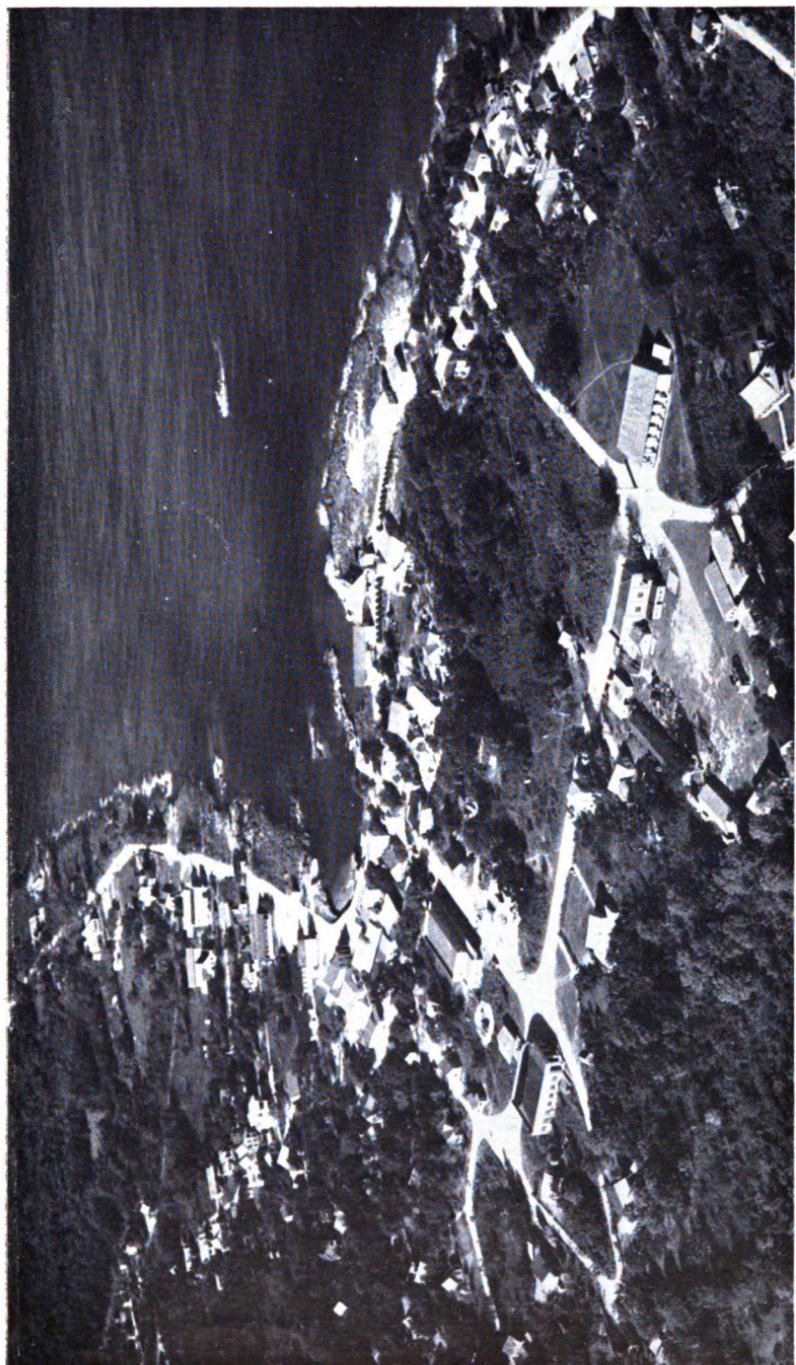
All three islands, particularly the Lesser Islands, offer excellent sport for the game fisherman, during the winter months in particular, and suitable vessels for this purpose are now becoming more numerous. There is nevertheless still plenty of room for improvement.

#### MINING

There is no mining in the Cayman Islands. In the late nineteenth century phosphate deposits were worked both in Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac, but these were of poor quality, and the discovery of phosphate beds in Florida finally killed this enterprise. An oil exploration licence in respect of the Island of Grand Cayman was granted in 1956 for a period of two years, and exploratory drilling has begun.

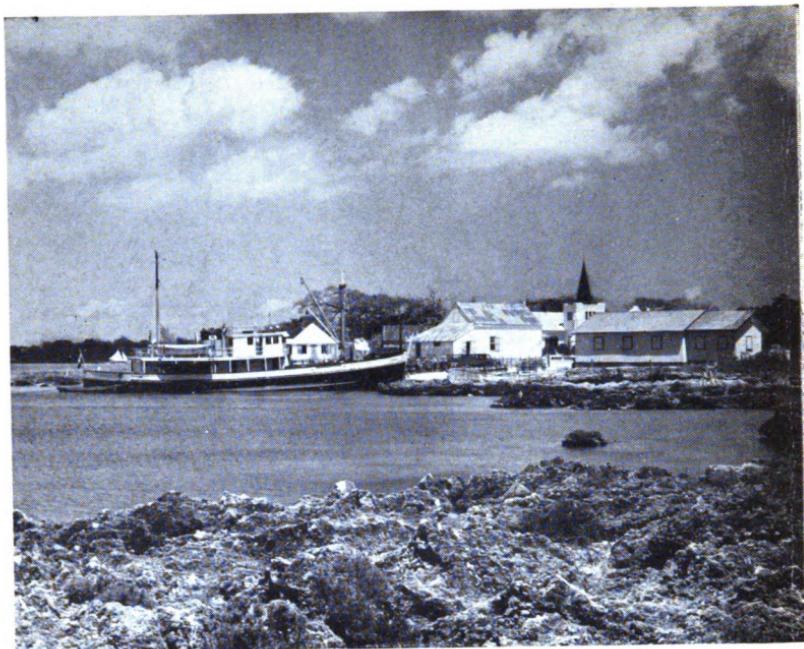
#### MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

The manufacture of thatch rope is a cottage industry on which many of the poorer people are dependent for a living. The entire output of rope, which has the advantage of being remarkably resistant to salt water, is absorbed by the Jamaica fishing industry. The rope is bought and exported by Government: this used to be done through agents, but during 1956 arrangements were made with the Jamaica Co-operative Union for its distribution. The producer is therefore assured of a fair return. It was possible during 1956 once again to increase the price paid to the producer—from £6 5s. Od. to £7 per 1,000 fathoms. The only other manufacturing industries in the Dependency are a concrete blockmaking concern and a small modern bakery, located in Georgetown, which began operations late in 1954.



*Aerial view of Georgetown, Capital of Grand Cayman*

—Hans Groenhoff



*M.V. "Kirkco" at Georgetown jetty*

—Hans Groenhoff



*Approach to ruins of "Fort George," Georgetown, Grand Cayman*

—Hans Groenhoff

The Pioneer Industries (Encouragement) Law, of 1950, and the Hotels Aid Law, grant relief from customs duty and tonnage tax to persons establishing factories or erecting hotels, for a wide range of articles such as building materials and equipment.

The boat-building industry, for which the Dependency was once famous, has practically died out: only a few small craft for local use were built in 1955 and 1956.

#### CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The West Bay Co-operative Association is the only co-operative society in the Dependency which functions with any degree of success.

### *Chapter 7: Social Services*

#### EDUCATION

PRIMARY education is free and compulsory for all children between the ages of seven and fourteen; text books and material are provided free of charge. Control is exercised by a Board of Education, which includes one member nominated by the Cayman Islands Teachers' Association. During 1955 and 1956, 11 primary schools were in operation in the Dependency, seven in Grand Cayman, three in Cayman Brac and one in Little Cayman. The school in Little Cayman is very small and provides for the few children of school age there: instruction is given by the Revenue Officer, Mr. Guy Banks, who admirably fills the many parts of Revenue Officer, schoolmaster, policeman, postmaster, dispenser, wireless operator, Registrar, lighthouse keeper, Government boat man and storekeeper. The average attendance in 1956 at all Government primary schools was 650, with 740 children on the rolls.

There was continued improvement during 1955 and 1956 in secondary education. The Cayman High School, established in 1949 under the aegis of the Presbyterian Church, has made steady progress. In each year there were three passes in the Senior Cambridge School Certificate examination. In 1955 provision was made in the Dependency's Estimates for a grant of £1,000 per annum to the school, the principal difficulties of which are, inevitably, finance and the recruitment of qualified staff. The Triple C school, operated by the Church of God, provides secondary education on American lines, but does not prepare candidates for any external examination. This school receives no financial support from the Government.

The Seventh Day Adventist Church operates a small private primary school in Georgetown, Grand Cayman.

The Government teaching staff consists of an Education Officer, 10 men and 20 women teachers of whom 10 (six men and four women) are certificated. Three Cayman Islands teachers are taking training courses in colleges in Jamaica.

Total Government expenditure on education in 1956-57 was £14,138, including provision for two overseas scholarships for optometry and dentistry.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

At the end of 1956 the following full-time personnel were employed in the Dependency's medical and health service: one Medical Officer, one Dental Officer, one Health Officer, one Matron, five nurses, an X-Ray and laboratory technician, a dispenser and a hospital clerk. All these are stationed in Grand Cayman, though the Medical and Dental Officers pay periodic visits to the Lesser Islands. A dispenser is stationed in Cayman Brac, and a subsidy is paid to a midwife who does general maternity work amongst the people of that island. The existence of a regular air service between Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac has meant that urgent cases can receive prompt and skilled attention in the Georgetown Hospital. There is also a private medical practitioner in Grand Cayman, who deputizes for the Government Medical Officer during his absence from the island; without his valuable stand-by services the islands would be in severe difficulties.

The Government hospital in Georgetown was greatly improved during 1955 and 1956 by provision of additional medical and surgical equipment, and of a kitchen preparing low-cost meals for patients. Much of the new equipment was provided from the Hospital Fund sponsored by Mrs. E. Cook-Bodden, which is supported by voluntary contributions from the public. As in past years, the Dependency experienced great difficulty in recruiting and retaining trained nursing staff, but the situation was greatly improved during 1956 by offering special terms and facilities to nurses seconded from the Medical Service of Jamaica. It is fair to say that considering the size of both the Dependency and the hospital, the islands possess one of the best equipped and most efficiently run hospitals in the West Indies.

During 1955 and 1956 the health of the Dependency was very satisfactory. The principal causes of mortality were, as before, cardio-vascular disease, pneumonia, neoplasma and *status epilepticus*. In 1955 and 1956, ages at death were as follows:

		1955	1956
Under 1 year . . . . .		6	11
1 to 10 years . . . . .		6	1
10 to 20 " . . . . .		—	—
20-30 " . . . . .		1	2
30-40 " . . . . .		—	1
40-50 " . . . . .		7	4
50-60 " . . . . .		3	7
60-70 " . . . . .		2	9
70-80 " . . . . .		7	8
80-90 " . . . . .		11	15
90-100 " . . . . .		9	4

The main causes of morbidity, in order of frequency, were: hypochondriasis and neurosis, respiratory tract infections, gynaecological disorders, helminthic infestation in children, hypertension and hypersensitive cardio-vascular disease.

There were 510 admissions to the hospital during 1955 and 440 during 1956. Out-patients numbered 4,983 in 1955 and 3,252 in 1956. In 1955 there were 78 major and 110 minor operations: the figures for 1956 were 89 major and 83 minor operations. There were two or three cases of typhoid in each year. Both the patients and the contacts were satisfactorily dealt with. In each year there was one mild case of poliomyelitis. This caused concern but it became evident that each was an isolated case. In each year there were 15 deaths in the hospital. There were no serious epidemics in either year.

The Dependency was fortunate in both years in that the Medical Officers who were posted to Grand Cayman were doctors who combined surgical and medical skill with a talent for administration, with the result that the administration of the Medical Service improved remarkably during the period under review. In general, (as is evident from the figures above), the hospital and its excellent facilities were increasingly used by the people, who have to a great extent lost their morbid dread of attending hospital. The wealthier section of the community continues to show an ingrained aversion to attendance at the hospital and continues to expect home visitation and treatment. With a single Medical Officer in the Dependency it is clearly impossible for first-class hospital services to be maintained in conjunction with the home visiting which might be expected of a private medical practitioner, and the requirements of this part of the population will, it is hoped, be met by the recruitment of a private medical practitioner who, it is proposed, might be granted a subsidy by the Cayman Islands Government.

In both years it proved difficult to maintain a dental service. Three Dental Officers were appointed in succession, with, unfortunately, lengthy gaps between each appointment. At the end of 1956 it seemed probable that this particular problem had been overcome.

The total expenditure on medical and health services in the financial year 1955-1956 was £11,230 and in the financial year 1956-1957 was £11,658 (revised estimate).

The Dependency was fortunate in having the services of a gynaecological specialist from Jamaica, Mr. N. Noble, during November, 1955; Mr. Noble visited the Dependency for a week and without remuneration performed six major operations. Similarly in 1956, the Dependency was visited by Dr. Maurice R. Thompson, surgeon specialist from Jamaica, who performed eight major surgical operations which could not be successfully undertaken by the hospital staff. Most of the patients he operated on were indigent, and Mr. Thompson likewise received no remuneration. The Dependency is greatly indebted to Mr. Noble and Mr. Thompson for their invaluable voluntary services.

Public health was reasonably satisfactory in both years. The Health Officer toured Grand Cayman at regular intervals, advising on sanitation and similar matters, and was responsible for supervision of the mosquito fogging services to which reference is made on p.6. There was a continued improvement in domestic sanitation and there is at last some sign that the extensive building which has been going on for the past three years is relieving the over-crowding which has been an undesirable feature in Georgetown (in particular) in the past.

The Health Officer resigned at the end of 1956 and the future of the health services is under review.

#### HOUSING

The average standard of housing in the Dependency is high. Wooden dwellings predominate, but nearly all new construction is in concrete; roofing is normally corrugated iron, though a fair number of houses can still be found roofed with shingles, and more rarely with the leaves of the thatch palm. The roof serves as a catchment area for rainwater which is stored in concrete cisterns: these cisterns provide water for drinking and for washing, and in the better homes with water-borne sanitation cistern water is supplemented by well water for flushing toilets.

A high proportion of the houses is attractively designed, and nearly all are well built. The larger buildings now being erected frequently show distressing evidence of the belief that an architect is an unnecessary luxury, and though externally attractive often testify internally to the fact that the professions of architecture and carpentry are separate and distinct.

Most houses are surrounded by a generous piece of ground, laid out with fruit trees and flowering shrubs, but the tendency is for building land to fetch higher and higher prices, with the result that new building lots are becoming progressively smaller. Nearly all houses are owned by their occupiers, and it is accordingly very difficult to obtain houses for rental, either for permanent occupation or for temporary occupation by tourists.

There are no building societies in the Dependency, nor are there any taxes or rates on house property.

#### SOCIAL WELFARE

Government funds for poor relief are administered by the Secretary to the Commissioner, assisted by voluntary representatives in the several districts. The recipients of poor relief are principally the aged and in some cases the dependants of seamen who have failed to return to the Dependency and have abandoned their families. Mental cases are sent to the mental hospital in Jamaica, the cost of their maintenance being met from the funds of the Dependency.

The Public Library, Georgetown, is housed in a commodious and attractive concrete building and is maintained by the Government. During 1955 and 1956 several hundred new volumes were added to the stock of books; and there was a marked increase in the number of people using the Library.

The Girls' Guildry movement, the Cayman Islands Boy Scouts' Association and the Wolf Cub Pack at Georgetown have all successfully continued their activities. The East End Citizens' Association and the First Cayman Pioneer Club at Bodden Town, whose objects are the encouragement of communal activities, continue to flourish. A welcome development in Georgetown was the strong revival of the Junior Section of the Girls' Guildry, providing admirable recreational and other facilities.

In general there is a lack of recreational facilities in the Dependency, attributable largely to the absence of the willingness or ability to organise; the playing of games is being encouraged in the schools, but progress is slow.

## Chapter 8: Legislation

LEGISLATION enacted during 1955 and 1956 was as follows:

### 1955

Law 1 of 1955. *The Hotels' Aid Law, 1955*, a measure to encourage the building of Hotels for the development of the tourist industry.

Law 2 of 1955. *The Commissioner (Vesting of Lands) Law, 1955*, a measure to regularise the legal position in regard to acquisition and disposal of Crown Lands.

Law 3 of 1955. *The Registration of Clubs Law, 1955*, a measure to regulate and control Clubs.

Law 4 of 1955. *The Liquor Licensing Law, 1955*, a measure to consolidate and improve the Law in relation to the granting of licences for the sale and disposal of intoxicating liquors.

Law 5 of 1955. *The Appropriation Law, 1955*.

Law 6 of 1955. *The Real Property Representative Law, 1955*, a measure to provide for the devolution of real estate to personal representatives of deceased persons.

### 1956

Law 1 of 1956. *The Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Law, 1956*.

Law 2 of 1956. *The Appropriation Law, 1956*.

Law 3 of 1956. *The Auditors (Repeal) Law, 1956*.

Law 4 of 1956. *The Pensions (Amendment) Law, 1956*.

Law 5 of 1956. *The Stipendiary Magistrates Law, 1956* a Law to provide for the appointment of a Stipendiary Magistrate for the Cayman Islands.

Law 6 of 1956. *The Courts of Justice (Amendment) Law, 1956*, a measure consequent on the enactment of the Stipendiary Magistrate's Law, 1956.

## Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

### JUSTICE

At the end of 1956 legislation had been enacted both by the Justices and Vestry of the Cayman Islands and by the Legislature of Jamaica to provide for reform of the administration of justice in the Dependency by the setting up of a resident Magistrate's Court. No appointment had been made at the end of the year, and certain subsidiary legislation will be required before the new Court can be instituted. During 1955 and 1956 the courts of the Dependency were as follows:

The Grand Court of the Cayman Islands  
The Quarterly Petty Court  
The Petty Sessions Court.

*The Grand Court*, constituted by Act 3 of 1889, sections 5 to 8 (Cayman Islands) and Cap. 493 of Jamaica Laws Revised Edition, is presided over by the Commissioner who is the Judge by virtue of his office as Commissioner (J.R.E. Cap. 491, section 3). The Court sits twice a year, in June and December, and has jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters as follows:

- (a) In civil matters where the amount claimed exceeds £10 whether arising from tort or from contract or from both, bankruptcy, equity, and probate and administration;
- (b) In criminal matters as set out in section 210 Cap. 493 (J.R.E.) In cases of capital felony it is provided by sections 5, Cap. 491 (J.R.E.) that it shall not be lawful for the Commissioner to preside at the trial, and a Judge from Jamaica is always sent to the Dependency for this purpose.

There is a right of appeal from any judgement, decree or order of the Grand Court to the Supreme Court of Jamaica as set out in section 201, Cap. 493, and Cap. 494 (J.R.E.).

The June and December sessions both in 1955 and 1956 were presided over by resident Magistrates from Jamaica, appointed by the Governor as Judges of the Grand Court.

*The Quarterly Petty Court*, constituted by Act 3 of 1889, section 3, is presided over by two Justices of the Peace. The jurisdiction of this court extends to actions, whether arising from tort or from contract or from both, and trespass to lands, when the debt or damages claimed do not exceed the sum of £10, and in which no question of the title to real estate is involved. This court under section 4 also has the power to try all cases in which disputes have arisen relative to the boundaries of lands or plantations of which it is necessary to have view. Jurisdiction may be exercised by one Justice and a jury of not more than five or less than three persons.

*The Petty Sessions Court* sits weekly, on Fridays, and is presided over by two Justices of the Peace. This court deals with minor offences and preliminary examinations in indictable offences. Appeals from

the Quarterly Petty Court and from the Petty Sessions Court are provided for in the Cayman Islands Appeal Regulations Law, Law 5 of 1918.

The number of persons dealt with by the Courts are shown in Appendices I and II.

#### POLICE

The Police Force consists of one Inspector, two Sergeants, a Lance Corporal, nine Constables, and four District Constables; the District Constables function only in case of emergency, and receive a small weekly allowance for their services. Of the total Force, one Sergeant and two Constables are stationed in Cayman Brac, but at the end of 1956 the Cayman Brac detachment was reduced, owing to difficulty in obtaining replacements, to one Constable. Improved pay and conditions of service have been offered, in order to make service in the Police Force more attractive, and the complete reorganisation of the Force is contemplated. At the end of 1956 arrangements had been made with the Commissioner of Police, Jamaica, to advise and assist in reorganisation.

There is little serious crime. Most cases dealt with by the Courts are not notable for deliberate criminal intent: they are normally the result of a quarrelsome aggressiveness which is completely absent in the Caymanian unless induced by drink.

#### PRISONS

There is a small gaol at Georgetown—a concrete building with six cells opening on to a small courtyard. It is used for prisoners with short sentences and for those sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment with hard labour for a term of six months or upwards who are awaiting transfer to the Central Penitentiary in Jamaica. There is no permanent prison staff, as the gaol is more often than not empty. The Police perform warden duties as and when required and temporary female staff is employed on the rare occasions when a female is incarcerated.

### *Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works*

#### PUBLIC UTILITIES

CAYMAN Public Service, Limited, operates the only public utility in the Cayman Islands—the supply of electricity. During 1955 and 1956 there was heavy capital investment in new generating and transmission equipment, and power lines were extended from Georgetown to West Bay. The result has been the provision of first-class power services, a striking increase in demand for power and a radical im-

provement in the amenities of life in Grand Cayman (See also p.5). Further generating equipment has been purchased for installation in 1957.

The Company also manufactures ice, and is partly responsible for the provision of cold storage facilities.

During 1956 exploratory steps were taken in regard to installing a new telephone service, both overseas and internal: the internal service would necessarily be operated to some extent in conjunction with the Power Company, whose poles would, it is hoped, be used for telephone transmission lines.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department consists of a Superintendent of Works, a clerk, and a varying number of daily-paid carpenters and general handymen. The Department is concerned almost exclusively with maintenance of roads, Government vehicles, public buildings, light-houses, and the very exiguous telephone system.

### *Chapter 11: Communications*

#### SHIPPING

GEORGETOWN is a port of registry with 23 vessels, totalling 9,114 gross tons on the register. The Dependency is not served by any steamship line. Sea communications are maintained by a number of motor vessels and schooners with auxiliary engines. These vessels do not operate to regular schedule, though the M.V. *Merco* maintains a service from Grand Cayman at monthly intervals with both Tampa, Florida, and Kingston, Jamaica. This vessel is of 128 tons and is owned by the Merren Shipping Company: it calls at Cayman Brac and Little Cayman both *en route* to and from Jamaica. The 85 ton *Addie II* (owners Farrington Brothers, West Bay) maintains a more or less regular service between Grand Cayman and Tampa, Florida, calling at the Isle of Pines, Cuba, *en route*. Other cargo vessels call at Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac at reasonably frequent intervals, but there is a persistent shortage of shipping space, with the result that cargo for the Dependency accumulates with distressing frequency at both Kingston and in Florida.

Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is the principal port of the Dependency. The anchorage area, in which there is ample depth of water for ocean-going vessels, is approximately half-a-mile north to south by a quarter of a mile east to west. Port facilities are poor. Vessels of shallow draught are able to use a small natural wharf of some 75 feet in length, alongside which the depth at low water varies from eight to twelve feet. A small transit shed adjoins the wharf. There is no lighterage service and there are no bunkering facilities.

## ROADS AND VEHICLES

Of the 62 miles of motorable roads in the Dependency, 44 are in Grand Cayman and 18 in Cayman Brac. Little Cayman is served by footpaths only. In Grand Cayman the principal road, approximately 30 miles in length, closely follows the line of the coast from Boatswain Bay to the north-west, through West Bay, Georgetown and Bodden Town, to East End on the south-east coast. This connects all the larger settlements with the exception of North Side, which is served by a branch road which takes in Old Man Bay and joins the main road on the south coast at Frank Sound. The roads are poor, having been built with no drainage, this usually being impracticable, and without camber; they are surfaced with a mixture of limestone, marl and coral sand, and are therefore at the mercy of weather and traffic. It has been estimated that it would cost at least £150,000 to provide Grand Cayman alone with a proper road system. Plans are under consideration for major improvement of the road system, it is hoped with the assistance of Colonial Development and Welfare funds (see also pp.5-6).

There are no regular omnibus services in Grand Cayman, but a number of motor vehicles make regular journeys from the country districts, carrying passengers, firewood, thatch rope and agricultural produce, and, on the return journey, stores and passengers. In Cayman Brac two lorries have been converted into omnibuses and maintain a regular service from one end of the island to the other. There are approximately 300 privately owned motorcars, trucks, and station wagons in the Dependency. Much use is made of bicycles.

## AIR SERVICES

At the end of 1956 the Dependency was served by two overseas airlines, British West Indian Airways (a subsidiary of B.O.A.C.), and LACSA (Lineas Aereas Costarricenses, S.A.—an affiliate of Pan American Airways). Internally the Dependency is served by Cayman Brac Airways, Ltd. (a subsidiary of LACSA). B.W.I.A. operates two services each week to and from Kingston/Grand Cayman/Belize (British Honduras) and during the winter months a weekly service to Miami, Florida. LACSA operates a twice-weekly service to and from Panama City/San Jose, Costa Rica/Grand Cayman/Miami, which was increased to thrice-weekly during the winter tourist season. There was a remarkable increase in traffic in both 1955 and 1956, passengers consisting principally of tourists and seamen. Extensive use was made of the Grand Cayman Airfield by freighter aircraft operated by LACSA, the island being a useful refuelling point for heavy-laden south-bound cargo aircraft.

At the end of 1956 the airstrip at Cayman Brac had been extended to 2,400 feet, and Cayman Brac Airways, Limited, designated as a regular scheduled carrier, made two flights weekly in each direction between Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac. In this case also passen-

ger traffic showed a steady increase, but unfortunately not an increase sufficient to enable the Company to operate without loss. (See also p.4).

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

No cable communication exists and there are no inland telegraphs. There is a wireless station at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, with a range of 1,000 miles and a smaller station at Cayman Brac with a range of 150 miles. Both stations work fixed schedules daily with Jamaica and messages are transmitted between Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac twice daily. The station at Grand Cayman also transmits meteorological reports to Havana, Cuba, every morning and evening.

There are inefficient telephone systems in both Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac: there are no private subscribers.

The Wireless Station equipment is obsolescent and badly requires replacement. It is hoped in due course to replace the present inadequate equipment, and to institute a radio telephone service.

### **Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services**

#### PRESS

*The Cayman Times*, a weekly newspaper, printed in Jamaica, began publication in December, 1956. A monthly religious tract *The Gospel of the Kingdom*, printed in Grand Cayman, carries a small amount of purely domestic news. The *Daily Gleaner*, published in Kingston, reaches Grand Cayman twice weekly by air, and has a fair circulation.

#### FILMS

There is one open-air cinema in Georgetown, Grand Cayman, which is open five nights a week, one in West Bay, and one in Cayman Brac which is operated in a hall above a store.

#### OTHER SERVICES

There are no broadcasting or Government information services.

## PART III

### *Chapter 1: Geography and Climate*

#### GEOGRAPHY

THE Cayman Islands consist of three islands—Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman—which lie in the Caribbean Sea between  $19^{\circ} 15'$  and  $19^{\circ} 45'$  north latitude and  $79^{\circ} 44'$  and  $81^{\circ} 27'$  west longitude. The islands are projecting peaks of the Cayman Ridge, a range of submarine mountains continuous with the Sierra Maestra Range of Cuba and running west to the Mysterious Bank in the direction of British Honduras.

*Grand Cayman*, which is situated about 180 miles west-north-west of the westernmost point of Jamaica and about 150 miles south of Cuba, is roughly 22 miles long from east to west with a maximum width of about eight miles. Its most striking topographical feature is the shallow reef-protected harbour of North Sound, which is seven and a half miles long by six miles wide and which almost cuts the island into two parts. The area of Grand Cayman is approximately 76 square miles. The island is divided into six districts, viz., Georgetown (population 1,462), West Bay (population 1,866), Prospect (population 414), Bodden Town (population 618), North Side (population 387) and East End (population 564).

*Cayman Brac*, which lies 69 miles north-east of Grand Cayman, is the most elevated and the most striking in appearance. It is about 12 miles in length, with an average width of a little over a mile and an area of approximately 14 square miles. Cayman Brac is divided into four districts: Stake Bay, West End, Creek and Spot Bay.

*Little Cayman*, five miles to the westward of Cayman Brac, is 10 miles long with a maximum width of two miles and an area of about 10 square miles. Little Cayman is divided into two districts; South Town and Jacksons.

In his *Geology of the Cayman Islands*, Dr. C. A. Matley, describes the islands as follows:

“ All the islands are low-lying, and do not attain anywhere a height of more than 60 feet above sea-level, except Cayman Brac, the eastern end of which rises to 140 feet. Viewed from the sea, they have a general resemblance to the flat-topped islands of the Bahama group. They are formed entirely of calcareous rocks, which the present survey has shown to be separable into two formations. An older limestone, which I call the Bluff Limestone forms the central and larger part of each island; and a younger formation of consolidated coral-sand and marl, with some limestone, which I call the Iron-shore Formation, occupies most of the periphery as a low coastal terrace, and generally terminates abruptly inland against raised marine cliffs of the Bluff Limestone. In addition to the above are the recent deposits which, at

sea, are living coral-reefs that almost surround the islands of Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, but occur only to a limited extent at the south-west of Cayman Brac, and, ashore, consist of blown coral-sand and storm beaches of coral shingle piled up by winds, storms, and hurricanes on the seaward side of the coastal platform. All the islands are entirely devoid of streams, owing to the porosity of the limestones, and even dry valleys are absent."

Some ten miles west of Grand Cayman is an area of shoal water known as the Cayman Bank, which is five miles long and about half-a-mile wide, with depths of 15 to 20 fathoms. Its platform-like surface is surrounded on all sides by steep slopes.

South of the Cayman group, at distances varying from 25 to 50 miles, lies the Bartlett Deep which is some 50 to 90 miles wide and extends in an east-and-west direction from the Gulf of Honduras to Western Haiti. Ten soundings of over 3,000 fathoms have been obtained, the sounding south of Grand Cayman being 3,428 fathoms.

#### CLIMATE

The climate of the Cayman Islands is for the greater part of the year excellent as, lying in the latitude of the Trade Winds, there are few days of calm and the north-east breezes temper even the hottest days. Only when the wind veers to the south-east or south can the temperature be deemed oppressive.

The seasons are fairly well-defined. The period May to October is the hot season, when the temperature ranges from 70° to 85° F. and the prevailing winds are from east to south. During this period the rainfall is comparatively heavy and mosquitoes can be a major pest. The cool season is from November to April when the range of temperature is 10° lower, and the prevailing winds from north-east to north-west. The pleasantest period is from mid-November to mid-March, when the weather is generally cool and there are few, if any, mosquitoes.

The total rainfall for the years 1955 and 1956 was 34.82 and 42.18 inches respectively, the average being around 60 inches per annum.

The hurricane season lasts from July to November, and the islands have been hit periodically. The last visitation of this kind was in October, 1944, though in October, 1952, the islands narrowly escaped severe damage, catching the edge of a hurricane whose centre passed only 40 miles to the west of Grand Cayman.

A meteorological station was erected in Georgetown, Grand Cayman, in 1955, by the Cuban Department of Agriculture, and trained observers from the National Observatory at Havana are stationed there throughout the year. Reports are exchanged twice daily with Havana, whence weather information is retransmitted throughout the Caribbean.

## Chapter 2: History

THE islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman were first sighted by Columbus in May, 1503, in the course of a voyage from Porto Bello (Panama) to Hispaniola (Haiti and Santo Domingo), but his storm-battered vessels made no landing on the islands: the chronicler simply records that Columbus, noting the abundance of turtle in the waters, named the islands "Les Tortugas", and went on his way. The claim has been made that the islands, bearing no name, appear on the Cantino chart of 1503 in approximately their correct position, but more recent examination of early maps by Dr. Edwin Beale Doran, Jr., indicates that the Maggiolo map of 1518 is most probably the first which shows the islands located with any degree of geographic knowledge. As early as 1530 the name "Caymanes" had been applied to the group, and was almost invariably used on maps thereafter.

No settlement was made on the islands, but from the earliest times the prodigious number of turtle found around the islands attracted ships of all nations for revictualling purposes. As many as forty sloops at a time from Port Royal alone were to be found loading turtle in Cayman waters, and Professor Archie Carr in his book *The Windward Road* has pointed out that this fecund source of fresh food for scurvy-ridden ships was a significant and important factor in the opening of the Caribbean, and had a direct and traceable effect on the course of colonisation. Captain William Jackson visited Grand Cayman in 1643 after his abortive attempt on Jamaica and describes Grand Cayman as follows:

"This place is low land and all rockye, and there be other 2 Islands of ye same name and Qualitie, being by ye Spanyards called Chimanoe, from ye multitude of Alligators here found which are Serpents, if not resembling ye Crocodiles of Egypt. Hither doe infinit numbers of sea tortoises resorte to lay their eggs upon ye Sandy Bay, which at this time (June) swarm so thick. The Island is much frequented by English, Dutch and French ships, that come purposely to salt up ye flesh of these Tortoises."

Jamaica was taken in 1655, and, by the Treaty of Madrid in 1670, was ceded to the British Crown, and with it the Cayman Islands.

The islands were for a long period a favoured haunt of pirates, and "The Caymanes" are named frequently in pirate literature. Teach (Blackbeard), who was clearly not above snapping up unconsidered trifles, is recorded as having taken a "small turtler" at Grand Cayman, and the following extract from Johnsons' *General History of the Pirates*, and relating to the year 1722, is illuminating—

"I should have observed, that when the *Lucretia* and *Katherine* was suffered to go away, the Pyrates detained their Mate, who was now the only man aboard, who understood navigation, and him they desired to take upon him the Command of the Sloop, in the room of Captain Evans deceased: but he desired to be excus'd that Honour, and at length positively refused it; so they agreed to break up the Company, and leave the Mate in Possession

of the Vessel: accordingly they went ashore at the Caimanes, carrying with them about nine thousand pounds amongst thirty persons: and it being fair Weather, the Mate and a Boy brought the vessel into *Port Royal*, in *Jamaica*."

The earliest inhabitants were mixed groups of shipwrecked sailors, marooned mariners, debtors, buccaneers and beachcombers, and no serious settlement took place till the early part of the eighteenth century: the earliest record of a grant of land is in 1734, followed by further patents in 1741: the families of "Boddēn" and "Foster" are in all probability direct descendants from these patentees, some of whom bore these names.

By the end of the eighteenth century the ruthless exploitation of Cayman turtle had so far reduced their number that their extermination was made certain, and the inhabitants of Grand Cayman (who had practically no alternative resources) were compelled to go further afield in search of new turtle fisheries. They first went north to Cuba, where their tendency to supplement fishing with wrecking and brigandage did little to commend them to the Spaniards, who as late as 1798 appealed to the Spanish Government to "wipe out the Pirate's nest" which was Grand Cayman. The Cuban turtle suffered the same fate as those in Grand Cayman, and before 1850 Caymanians had turned south to the Central American coast, where turtle fishing continues to the present day, though the extermination of Central American turtle is also, already, virtually certain.

The islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman were permanently settled only in 1833, when several families from Grand Cayman established themselves on Cayman Brac, where they lived in isolation till 1850, when, then numbering 36, they built themselves a boat. It is interesting to note that as late as 1877 there was no administrative connection between Grand Cayman and the Lesser Islands; in 1877 a Justice of the Peace was appointed in Cayman Brac; not till 1887 was any more formal connection established; this was done in a rather absentminded fashion, and produces anomalies up to the present day.

The islands were favourably located for trade with passing shipping in the days of sail, but as the nineteenth century advanced and steam gradually replaced sail, the islands became more and more cut off from the outside world, a state of affairs which lasted, effectively, until the 1940's and the era of air transportation. The result was extensive emigration to Nicaragua, and the settlement of the Bay Islands, (at one time British but now part of Spanish Honduras), and later extensive emigration to Florida.

There has been a good deal of argument about the origin of the name "Cayman": Jackson's description of his "Serpents" could well refer to iguanas, and in a recently published French account of Drake's voyage of 1586 (*The Roanoke Voyage*, Hakluyt Society, 1955) an anonymous writer states—

"... they passed by the island of Caymanas, which is not inhabited. There are on this island great serpents called "caymanas," like large lizards, which are edible."

This is clearly a description of the iguana, which is still found in the islands, and not of the caiman or alligator, which is not found in the islands, and of whose existence there is no unequivocal historical record. It is legitimate to suggest that the alleged past existence of alligators follows from the existence of the name "Caymans" and not vice versa, and to conclude that the inoffensive iguana was, in the first place, mistaken for an alligator.

### *Chapter 3: Administration*

In the early days of settlement, public affairs were administered by Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The Justices functioned under the direction of one of their number whom they themselves selected and who was styled "Governor". In 1832 the principle of representative government was accepted and elected members known as Vestrymen were added to the administrative body. At the same time the title "Custos" was substituted for that of "Governor".

An Act of Parliament passed in 1863, provided for the ratification of all prior acts of the local body receiving the assent of the Government of Jamaica. Under this authority, 20 acts, passed between 1832 and 1864, were submitted to the Governor of Jamaica whose assent to them was given in 1865. It was further provided in the Act that the Justices and Vestry should continue to exercise legislative powers, their enactments being subject to the assent of the Governor of Jamaica. Under the same authority the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Dependency, and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed.

In 1898 the powers of the Custos were vested in a Commissioner who combines administrative duties with those of a Judge of the Grand Court. He is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The seat of Government is at Georgetown, where the Commissioner resides.

The present Legislative Assembly of Justices and Vestry consists of the Commissioner as President, 27 Justices of the Peace and 27 Vestrymen. The Justices of the Peace are commissioned in a General Commission of the Peace by the Governor of Jamaica, the latest Commission being dated 19th August 1952, when 28 Justices of the Peace (including the Commissioner) were appointed.

The election of Vestrymen is held every two years, and is governed by an Act of 1832 which provided that "upon requisition of the Custos or Senior Magistrate, the Magistrates in the district shall call the people together and proceed to elect Vestrymen to serve for two years." Whereas women would appear to be included in the electorate it has long been the practice for male taxpayers only to vote, the latter being defined in Law 5 of 1927 as "male persons between the ages of 18 and 60 years." The last election was held in August, 1956.

## MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

President : A. M. Gerrard, O.B.E., Commissioner.

Justices of the Peace (Ex-officio members)

Edwin Walton	E. O. Panton, M.B.E.	D. V. Watler
J. N. Tibbets	T. L. Bodden	J. A. Panton
A. S. Rutty, M.B.E.	T. F. Hill, I.S.M.	S. O. Ebanks
R. B. Bodden, M.B.E.	R. P. Bodden	G. L. Lawrence
E. S. Parsons	T. A. Ebanks	Bertram Ebanks
Charles Glidden	J. C. Lazzari	E. M. Forbes
A. B. Connolly	J. R. Watler	L. A. Ebanks
W. T. Foster	R. B. Kirkconnell	D. H. Foster
T. W. Farrington	J. S. Smith	O. G. Hurlston

Vestrymen (elected)	Area Represented	Vestrymen (elected)	Area Represented
O. L. Panton	Georgetown	W. B. McCoy	Bodden Town
E. D. Merren	"	L. Eden	Prospect
W. W. Bodden	"	L. Thompson	"
H. M. Coe	"	Carl Thompson	"
A. B. Bush	"	W. A. McLaughlin	East End
Spurgeon Ebanks	West Bay	N. R. McLaughlin	"
J. S. Banks	"	Lincoln Bodden	"
J. G. Smith	"	Kenneth Chisholm	North Side
O. M. Farrington	"	Olney Ebanks	"
J. C. Ebanks	"	K. P. Tibbets	Lesser Islands
A. B. Bodden	Bodden Town	A. A. Foster	"
G. H. Ricketts	"	R. C. Foster	"
James Berry	"	C. G. Kirkconnell	"
Harold Stewart	"		

## Chapter 4 : Weights and Measures

IMPERIAL weights and measures are used throughout the Dependency.

## Chapter 5: Reading List

*Notes on the History of the Cayman Islands.* Dr. GEORGE S. S. HIRST. Jamaica, Printed privately, circa 1910.

*The Cayman Islands : Their Stamps and Post Office.* D. B. ARMSTRONG. Junior Philatelic Society, 1911.

*Birds of the Cayman Islands.* R. P. LOWE. Ibis, 1911.

*The Postage Stamps of the Cayman Islands.* F. J. MELVILLE. Gibbons, 1914.

“ Geology of the Cayman Islands,” by S. A. MATLEY in *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society*, Vol. LXXXII, 1926.

*The Herpetology of the Cayman Islands.* CHAPMAN GRANT. Institute of Jamaica, 1940.

*Forestry in the Cayman Islands*, CHRISTOPHER SWABY and C. BERNARD LEWIS. Development and Welfare in the West Indies, Bulletin No. 23.

*The Fisheries of the Cayman Islands*, ERNEST F. THOMPSON. Development and Welfare in the West Indies, Bulletin No. 22.

*A Physical and Cultural Geography of the Cayman Islands*, EDWIN BEALE DORAN, JR. 1953 (Unpublished)\*.

*The Windward Road*, ARCHIE CARR, Alfred A. Knopf, 1956, New York.

\*Copies of this work are available for study at the Commissioners' Office, Grand Cayman; the Library of the University of California, Berkeley, California; The West India Reference Library, Institute of Jamaica, Kingston, Jamaica. Microfilms are available at the British Museum, and at the Colonial Office Library.

# APPENDIX I

## Persons dealt with by the Courts, 1955

### Appendix I

Offences	Total arrested or summons to court	Acquitted	Nolle Prosequi	Bound over	Awaiting trial	Order made	Convicted			Whipping			Fine		
							Imprisonment	M	F	J	M	J	M	F	
<i>Against lawful authority</i>															
Disorderly Conduct	33	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	29	2
Obstructing Police etc.	10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—
<i>Against public morality</i>															
Indecent Language and Abusive Language	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	9	2
<i>Against the person</i>															
Grievous harm, wounding, etc.	1	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	4
Assaults	22	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Threats	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against Property</i>								4	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Thefts and other stealings	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burglary, house & store breaking	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
False pretences, cheating, Fraud etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other—Trespass	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	3
Damage to Property	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against Local Laws</i>															
Against Traffic Ordinance	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	2
Against Liquor Ordinance	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Bastardy	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b>	•	•	130	2	—	11	—	12	9	2	—	1	—	80	13

# APPENDIX II

## Persons dealt with by the Courts, 1956

### Appendix II

Offences	Total arrested or summons made to court	Acquitted	Nolle Prosequi	Bound over	Awaiting trial	Order made	Convicted			Whipping			Fine		
							M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
<i>Against lawful authority</i>															
Disorderly Conduct	11	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	1	—
Obstructing Police etc.	11	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—
<i>Against public morality</i>														2	2
Other—Indecent Language	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against the Person</i>															
Manslaughter	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grievous harm, wounding, etc.	2	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	3	—
Assaults & Abusive Language	32	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against Property</i>															
Thefts & other stealings	7	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Receiving stolen property	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arson	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Predial larceny	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Other—Trespass	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against Local Laws</i>															
Against traffic ordinance	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	3	—
Against township ordinance	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
Firearms Law	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Gambling	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bastardy	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b>	—	110	7	1	12	—	—	—	9	6	1	—	—	65	9

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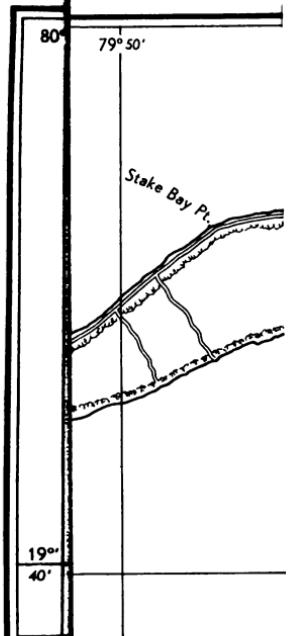
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# Cayman Islands

## 1957 and 1958

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*Map at end.*



## PART I

### General Review

THE prosperity of the Cayman Islands has continued to increase during 1957 and 1958, an increase which can be gauged by a comparison of the figures for customs import duty over the past five years:

	£
1954-55	52,451
1955-56	68,068
1956-57	85,120
1957-58	94,896
1958-59 (Revised Estimate)	110,000

Even allowing for the increase in customs duty, effective from 1st April, 1958, which is estimated to account for about £12,500 of the revised estimate for 1958-59, these figures reflect a marked and steady rise in the prosperity of a population which has altered little in numbers.

It is to be noted, however, that the rate of increase is likely to slow down: the basis of the islands' economy is still the recruitment of seamen by American shipping companies, and while during the past few years more and more men have been recruited, there now remain virtually no untapped reserves, except among the boys growing up.

Most of these men are employed on tankers and bulk cargo ships; as the world-wide demand for such tonnage keeps increasing, so there is a steady increase in the opportunities available to Caymanian seamen for well-paid employment, and (for the more ambitious) promotion to better paid employment. The great disadvantage of this somewhat specialised manner of living is that the islands lose many of their best and many of their skilled men, and are progressively losing that invaluable element in any community—those men of wider experience, wider ability and wider vision who are prepared to take an unselfish part in the conduct of public affairs. It is a great pity that the Dependency cannot have its prosperity at a less high price.

The Dependency's principal problem in 1957 and 1958 has therefore been shortage of labour. The Dependency needs labour for its own development, and the labour resources available (both skilled and unskilled) are wholly inadequate. An indication of the position is that with some hundreds of Caymanians occupying responsible positions in the engine rooms of vessels of up to 80,000 tons, the number of reasonably qualified mechanics in the islands can be counted on one hand. The islands' labour force is occupied almost entirely in distribution and in the building trades.

The increase in prosperity and the shortage of man-power have been accompanied by a steady and serious rise in the cost of living. The causes of this are manifold, but among them may be numbered:

- (i) The shortage of manual labour has made what there is expensive and inefficient. It therefore pays no one to do any farming (the ubiquitous rocky outcrops prevent the use of ordinary machinery), and even keeping dairy cattle ranks as a hobby and not a profitable business, so that by far the greater part of the milk, meat and vegetables consumed in the islands has to be imported.
- (ii) The rich rewards of going to sea have forced up the wages generally in the islands: with this there has been an increase in the number of traders (with no comparable increase in consumers) and constant improvements in standards and amenities of their establishments so that over-heads have gone up both actually and proportionately.
- (iii) The heavy cost of road reconstruction made necessary increased taxation, which was adopted principally in the form of increased import duties (the only really significant tax) on all commodities except a limited list of foodstuffs and other basic necessities. The increased cost of maintaining the improved roads will leave no prospect of reducing these duties in the future unless they can be replaced by some other form of taxation—a course at present opposed by all strata of society in the islands.
- (iv) It is not always easy for local concerns to get agencies for British goods, since often the agency for Jamaica and its Dependencies is given to a Jamaican concern which collects a commission, often quite a high commission, on goods passed on to a Caymanian sub-agent. This multiplicity of middlemen, as well as the high trans-shipment charges in Jamaica, adds considerably to the cost of goods imported from and through Jamaica.

Despite all this, however, there is no real poverty in the Cayman Islands, except among a few of the aged or infirm and a few of the incorrigibly shiftless. A sense of responsibility towards dependants and an instinct for private and neighbourly charity are very strong, and even these few are able to live with very little public assistance.

On the credit side, the evidence of increasing prosperity is to be seen throughout the islands in the steady growth of new houses of a very high standard, and a parallel disappearance of old and shabby homes. There are still shacks, but they are becoming perceptibly fewer year by year. Concrete block construction with zinc roofing is the most general, though timber is still preferred by many people in Cayman Brac, and composition roofing materials are also to be seen. Few of the new houses have less than three living rooms besides kitchen and bathroom, often with water-borne sanitation and a substantial rain-water cistern.

One of the most encouraging implications of this is the evidence it provides of the average seaman's determination to retire in his own island and not to forsake it: this trend is reflected in a growing desire amongst many of the men to settle down to doing some kind of constructive work ashore, a desire which, when it gets beyond the present restricted horizons of shop-keeping and house-building as the only possible shore occupations for a sailor, holds promise for some broadening of the economy.

With increased prosperity is coming also an awakening to the need for improved education, and as the already raised standards of dress and food whet the public appetite for further improvement, so the seaman is more inclined to impress on his sons and younger brothers the need for better education as a qualification for promotion.

#### AIR SERVICES

The replacement by British West Indian Airways of their Viking aircraft by Viscounts made necessary an unexpected and costly resurfacing of the runway at Owen Roberts Field at Grand Cayman and the reconstruction of the taxiway. The completion of the latter has been hampered by wet weather, but when it is finished the result will be an excellent airfield which is already carrying much increased traffic and is attracting attention from other airlines.

Work has been continuing steadily on the Cayman Brac airstrip, which has now reached a length of 2,820 feet, 2,220 feet of which is asphalted. Difficult terrain has been crossed, and with comparatively little additional expense the target of an airstrip capable of taking medium-sized aircraft, such as D.C.3s or Herons, will be achieved.

The Cessna T50 operated by Cayman Brac Airways, which was getting old, has been replaced by a twin-engined Aero Commander, to pay for which a continuance of the Government subsidy of £4,000 a year has been necessary; however, there can be no question either that the replacement was necessary, or that increased revenue from the Lesser Islands resulting from the existence of Cayman Brac Airways and the consequent ability of the shipping companies' recruiting agents to employ men from the Lesser Islands greatly exceeds the amount spent on the subsidy. Moreover, Cayman Brac Airways is expanding its business, and there is every reason to hope that when the Aero Commander is paid for, which should be by April, 1961, it may be possible to reduce the subsidy substantially. The service continues to be a boon to the people of the Lesser Islands, and is also helping to open up Cayman Brac to tourists.

In addition to passenger services, Owen Roberts Field is being increasingly used as a refuelling halt for freighter aircraft and small aircraft—particularly machines fitted with agricultural spray equipment—flying between the United States and Central and South America. One Florida Air-Taxi Service has a permit to fly in to Grand Cayman, but so far has done exceedingly little business.

The regular services using Owen Roberts Field are:

B.W.I.A. (passenger service) *en route* between Montego Bay, Jamaica, and Miami, Florida, twice weekly each way (Wednesdays and Saturdays);

LACSA (Costa Rican Airways) (passenger service) *en route* between El Coco, Costa Rica, and Miami, Florida, twice weekly each way (Mondays and Fridays);

LACSA (freighters) *en route* between Costa Rica and Miami, four times weekly (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays);

LANICA (Nicaraguan Airways) (freighters) *en route* between Managua, Nicaragua, and Miami, normally three times weekly (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays);

Cayman Brac Airways (passenger) between Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac, twice weekly each way, Mondays and Fridays and as required.

#### TOURISM

The development of facilities for tourists at present hinges principally on the provision of accommodation. The airlines keep a watchful eye on the hotels before increasing their services, while potential hotel-builders wish to be satisfied that if they invest in building there will be adequate travel services to fill their rooms. Development on both lines is at present cautious but, despite this, a new thirty-roomed hotel is at present being built on the West Beach on a two-instalment plan—16 or 18 rooms immediately, and the remainder later, a house on the sea front in South Georgetown is being converted into a small hotel of ten bedrooms, and a few cottages are being built for renting to visitors.

Two new clubs have been opened: first, the Beach Club on the West Beach, which caters for swimmers, water skiers, family and other picnics and parties on the beach, and meals, drinks, dances and indoor games in the club building itself; second, the Rum Point Club, which caters for fishing and boating parties in the remote seclusion of Rum Point at the north eastern corner of the Great Sound, where it is normally approached only by water, being accessible by land only by an uneven walk of about four miles over sand and "ironshore" at the sea-edge. The proprietor of the Rum Point Club has started work on guest rooms to provide accommodation for members or visitors who wish to stay overnight or for the week-end.

The management of the Buccaneer's Inn at Cayman Brac have continued to improve their hotel, but the tourist trade in Cayman Brac is slow in developing. Not the least reason for this is the necessity of going from Grand Cayman by light aircraft, of the safety and stability of which some visitors have an illogical suspicion, and there is a more practical ground of objection in the severely limited accommodation for luggage.

**ROAD RECONSTRUCTION**

The projected road reconstruction in Grand Cayman commenced in November, 1957, the work being undertaken by an American-owned company domiciled in Nassau, Bahamas. The original intention was that it should be done over a period of three years by the Jamaica Public Works Department, but the estimate of cost was considerably higher than had been anticipated, and it was in consequence decided to call for tenders. Three companies tendered. It was agreed to award the contract to Coastal Development Company on the basis of completing the road up to full specification from West Bay to Bodden Town, and to make such improvements east of Bodden Town as a maximum of £150,000 would allow. A feature of the contract which has caused the Cayman Islands great financial stringency during the current financial year has been the speed with which the contractor hoped to complete the work—ten months. This target has not been achieved, and the work is unlikely to be completed before April, 1959; nevertheless the greatest part of the cost had to be paid in one year instead of over three, and this has necessitated severe retrenchment in all other Government activity.

The work is being financed with the help of a Colonial Development and Welfare grant of £40,000, and an Inter-Colonial Loan of £60,000, the balance of £50,000 being met by the Dependency's funds.

**GEORGETOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

The building of a new elementary school for Georgetown was deferred owing to the lack of funds as a result of the road rebuilding programme. £6,000 of Colonial Development and Welfare money had been allocated for a proportion of this, and an additional allocation has been asked for to enable the work to be undertaken during 1959. A site of six acres has been acquired for the school.

**GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK**

During 1957 and 1958 there was a steady drain on the Savings Bank. This trend showed welcome signs of easing off at the end of the year; this may partly be accounted for by the move of the bank premises from the Commissioner's office to a more central site next door to the post office, but is probably mainly due to the fact that the commercial banks are no longer paying a higher rate of interest on savings accounts.

**COAT OF ARMS**

In 1958 Her Majesty was pleased to order a Grant of Arms to the Cayman Islands. A transcription of the Warrant conferring the Grant is given below:

"ELIZABETH R

ELIZABETH THE SECOND by the Grace of God of the  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
and of Our other Realms and Territories QUEEN, Head of  
the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, to Our Right

Trusty and Right Entirely Beloved Cousin and Counsellor Bernard Marmaduke, Duke of Norfolk, Knight of Our Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight Grand Cross of Our Royal Victorian Order, Earl Marshal and Our Hereditary Marshal of England, Greeting !

WHEREAS for the greater honour and distinction of Our Cayman Islands We are desirous that Armorial Ensigns should be assigned for that Territory.

KNOW YE THEREFORE that We of Our Princely Grace and Special Favour have granted and assigned and by these Presents do grant and assign the following Armorial Ensigns for our said CAYMAN ISLANDS that is to say: for the Arms: BARRYWAVY ARGENT AND AZURE three MULLETS VERT fimbriated OR on a CHIEF WAVY GULES A LION PASSANT GUARDANT GOLD And for the Crest On a Wreath of the Colours IN FRONT OF A PINE-APPLE PLANT LEAVED AND FRUCTED OR A GREEN TURTLE VERT, together with this Motto: HE HATH FOUNDED IT UPON THE SEAS, as the same are in the painting hereunto annexed more plainly depicted to be borne for Our said CAYMAN ISLANDS on Seals, Shields, Banners, Flags or otherwise according to the Laws of Arms.

OUR WILL AND PLEASURE therefore is that you the said Bernard Marmaduke, Duke of Norfolk, to whom the cognizance of matters of this nature doth properly belong do require and command that this OUR Concession and Declaration be recorded in Our College of Arms to the end that Our Officers of Arms and all other Public Functionaries whom it may concern may take full notice and have knowledge thereof in their several and respective Departments. And for so doing this shall be your Warrant.

GIVEN at Our Court at St. James's this Fourteenth day of May 1958: in the Seventh year of Our Reign.  
BY HER MAJESTY'S COMMAND

Alan Lennox Boyd.

I hereby certify that the foregoing copy of the Royal Warrant assigning Armorial Ensigns for the Cayman Islands is faithfully extracted from the Records of the College of Arms, London, As witness my hand at the said College of Arms this Second day of June 1958.

G. R. Bellew  
Garter King of Arms."

#### NEW CONSTITUTION

On 20th February, 1958, the Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands Act received the Royal Assent, and a public statement was issued on 10th October, 1958, giving an outline of the new constitution that would be granted by virtue of the Act. A copy of the

statement forms Appendix I to this Report.\* The statement was very favourably received throughout the islands, where there has been much discussion on points of detail.

#### CAYMAN BRAC ELECTRICITY SCHEME

A group of Cayman Brac residents formed a company to establish an electricity supply in their island. After committing themselves to some extent by buying materials, they came to the conclusion that they would not be able to finance themselves, and asked for Government assistance. After exhaustive enquiry, plans are now being drawn up for a scheme suited to the conditions of the island, and the Colonial Development Corporation is examining it.

The unusual factor is the high general level of prosperity of the people, which compensates for their small numbers, so that, wanting electricity, they are willing to pay a great deal for it. On this basis it has been possible to draw up plans for what should be a satisfactory scheme, although, at all events at the outset, current will be expensive —about 1s. 6d. a unit, which the people have accepted.

#### RELATIONS WITH JAMAICA

As in previous years the Government of Jamaica, while meticulously respecting the Dependency's autonomy, provided invaluable assistance in the shape of technical, legal and professional advice and by the secondment of trained personnel. There is a growing realisation in the Dependency of the extent to which it is indebted to the Government of Jamaica for the provision of central services, and a growing appreciation of the valuable aspects of a generous relationship which can so readily provide technical assistance for which the Dependency would otherwise have to resort to outside interests on a purely commercial basis.

#### FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The first paragraph of this report illustrates the fact that the economy of the Cayman Islands continues to be buoyant. The revised estimate of revenue for 1958-59, excluding Colonial Development and Welfare money, is £152,221, while the revised estimate of expenditure for the same period is £149,935, showing a small working surplus of £2,286. Of the figure for expenditure, £39,049 is taken up exclusively by the road reconstruction, including payments to the contractor and all collateral expenditure out of the general revenues of the Cayman Islands. The corresponding figures for 1957-58 were:

Revenue . . . . .	£137,830
Expenditure . . . . .	£162,790
Roads Expenditure . . . . .	£32,907

Administrative efficiency has been assisted by increased delegation of functions to heads of departments, by moving the Government

\* The Cayman Islands (Constitution) Order in Council was made on 13th May, 1959, and was brought into effect on 4th July, 1959.

Savings Bank out of the Commissioner's office, and by some minor staff adjustments. The rapidly expanding volume of business, however, is demanding increases in staff and improved facilities, particularly in the matters of warehouse accommodation, administrative accommodation, and up-to-date equipment. The present need for economy, however, retards any move towards meeting these needs in the immediate future.

#### WEATHER AND WATER

The islands had no hurricanes in either year, though in September, 1958, hurricane "Ella" appeared to be bearing directly for Cayman Brac until it veered sharply north-west over the Oriente Province of Cuba. A disturbance which did not reach hurricane force was generated between Grand Cayman and Swan Island, also in September, 1958, and there were winds up to 50 miles per hour over Grand Cayman. This disturbance proved to be a good Caymanian, however, and went away to sea while it was still young.

During July, 1957, there were exceptionally high tides in the Caribbean, portions of the road in Grand Cayman being covered by a few inches of water. Local wiseacres were convinced that this portended hurricane weather, but after a few days the tides went back to normal.

The summer of 1957 was exceptionally dry, which was complemented by a series of nor'westers during the winter. 1958 was generally conceded to be an unusual year, with good rains spread out from May to December, and higher than normal temperatures. Unseasonable rain in December raised humidity above the average.

#### SHIP-BUILDING

A welcome, if short-lived, revival of the Cayman Islanders' greatest accomplishment was occasioned by an order for two barges for the Turks and Caicos Islands Salt Industry. The order was accepted by Captain C. E. Kirkconnell of Cayman Brac, and the first barge was completed in December, and launched and towed away on 27th December. Of excellent workmanship and finish, it emphasised the negative side of prosperity from foreign employment, and it is tragic to see the old skill dying away with the old craftsmen. Apart from these two barges, a few small boats have been built in both Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac, but in so desultory a fashion as to hold no great promise of the survival of the industry. The passing of an era for these islands was emphasised by the sale and departure of the *Goldfield*, almost the last of the Cayman schooners. Many Caymanian eyes were moist the day she sailed away.

#### THATCH ROPE

A visit by the Manager of the Jamaica Co-operative Union to try to stimulate interest in increasing production of thatch rope (rope made from the leaf of the thatch palm) has had the valuable effect of

awakening public interest in the possibilities of developing this old cottage industry.

At present the whole process of making this rope is so cumbersome that there is practically no profit in it, and for many people it is no more than a hobby which just about pays for itself, and satisfies a creative urge.

The general request for increased prices is unrealistic, in that the rope, which has great resistance to deterioration from salt water, is coarse and hard, and has a market only amongst the fishermen of Jamaica, who cannot pay increased prices. There is, however, great scope for reducing costs and increasing production by improving methods of obtaining and curing the material and of twisting and laying the rope. This is now being investigated.

#### VISITS

Grand Cayman was honoured by the presence for about 20 minutes of the Countess Mountbatten of Burma on her way from British Honduras to Jamaica on 8th January, 1958. His Excellency the Governor, Sir Hugh Foot, G.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., O.B.E., and Lady Foot, accompanied by Mr. Noel Coward, visited Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac in March, 1957, and the Governor and Mr. Coward also visited Little Cayman—making the second visit in history of a Governor to that island. The Governor and Lady Foot paid another visit to Grand Cayman before their departure for Cyprus. Sir Hugh Foot's successor, Sir Kenneth Blackburne, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., and Lady Blackburne, visited Grand Cayman in January, 1958, and Sir Kenneth Blackburne visited Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac in May and December, 1958, the second time accompanied by Mr. John Marnham, C.M.G., M.C., T.D., of the Colonial Office. Bad weather prevented a visit to Little Cayman.

The islands were visited by H.M.C.S. *Sioux* in July, 1957, and in February, 1957, by the Belgian Training Ship *Mercator* and the U.S.S. *Charleston*.

#### AIR SURVEY

A most important contribution to the development of the Cayman Islands was made in October, 1958, when an aircraft of Kenting Aviation of Toronto (a member of the Hunting Group) under contract to the Directorate of Colonial Surveys carried out a complete air survey of the three islands. The results have not yet been released, but it is understood that the photography has been entirely successful.

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## PART II

### *Chapter 1 : Population*

THE earliest record relates to the year 1774, when the total population was estimated to be 176. By 1802, when a census was undertaken by an officer appointed for that purpose by the Governor of Jamaica, the total had risen to 933, of whom 545 were slaves. The figures for 1891, 1911, 1921 and 1934 were 4,322, 5,564, 5,253 and 6,009 respectively.

A census of Jamaica and its Dependencies financed by Her Majesty's Government and directed by Mr. A. J. Pelletier, Chief of Census, Canadian Bureau of Statistics, was taken in January, 1943. The method employed on this occasion provided for the enumeration of the considerable number of men absent at sea and abroad. This census showed the population of the Dependency to be 6,670, which was the highest in its history. The detailed figures were as follows:

		Male	Female	Total
Grand Cayman	.. .	2,322	2,989	5,311
Cayman Brac	.. .	604	692	1,296
Little Cayman	.. .	29	34	63
		<u>2,955</u>	<u>3,715</u>	<u>6,670</u>

Of this total, 1,052 were of African, 3,518 of mixed and 2,100 of European descent. The islands are unique in The West Indies in their high proportion of inhabitants of European descent.

This 1943 census revealed the number of males per 100 females to be 80, as against 70 in 1934 and 73 in 1921. On both the earlier occasions, however, absent males were not taken into account. During 1954 a sample survey of population was undertaken by officers of the Central Bureau of Statistics, Jamaica, in both Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac. The results are not yet available.

The population at the end of 1958 was estimated to be 9,374, comprising 7,646 persons in Grand Cayman and 1,728 in the Lesser Islands. Birth, death, and marriage rates per 1,000 population for the years 1954-1958 were as follows:

Year	Total Births	Rate per thousand	Total Deaths	Rate per thousand	Total Marriages	Rate per thousand
1954	237	29.43	48	6.00	50	6.21
1955	226	27.47	52	6.30	60	7.29
1956	235	25.98	62	5.75	79	8.95
1957	248	27.41	60	6.63	65	7.04
1958	207	22.40	66	7.14	52	5.55

Statistics of migration during the same period are given opposite:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Inward</i>	<i>Outward</i>	<i>Plus or Minus</i>
1954 . . . .	1,909	2,071	— 162
1955 . . . .	2,486	2,266	+ 220
1956 . . . .	3,218	2,572	+ 646
1957 . . . .	3,654	3,783	— 129
1958 . . . .	4,648	4,158	+ 490

Any account of the population of the Dependency would be misleading if attention were not drawn to the steady emigration which has occurred throughout the past 80 years. Up to the turn of the century many Caymanians migrated to the Central American Republics (principally Nicaragua and Spanish Honduras, where there are still Caymanian communities) and to Cuba. After the turn of the century, large numbers migrated to the United States, the initial impetus being given by the opportunities of employment offered by the construction of the Florida East Coast Railway between 1903 and 1912. With the spectacular development of Florida which has since taken place, more and more Caymanians have been drawn to the United States: it is now probable that there are permanently resident overseas (principally in the United States and most as United States citizens) more Caymanians or persons of Caymanian parentage than there are in the islands. Immigration restrictions have slowed down the drift to the United States.

## *Chapter 2 : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation*

### **OCCUPATIONS AND WAGES**

No labour statistics are available other than those prepared in connection with the 1943 census. Those figures are so out of date that they are misleading and are therefore omitted.

A very high proportion of the adult male population of the Cayman Islands is engaged in seafaring in various capacities in vessels plying all over the world (see also page 3). These seamen receive wages varying from £35 per month to (in the case of qualified deck and engineering staff) as much as £225 per month. The male group aged 20 to 50 years is therefore conspicuous in the islands by its absence, with the result that male labour is scarce. There is no unemployment.

Rates for unskilled labour vary between 18s. and 25s. a day: stevedores are paid 2s. 6d. per hour; carpenters and masons between £2 10s. and £5 per day according to their capacities. Female shop assistants receive on the average £10 per month, and domestic servants between £6 and £8 per month, usually with partial board. The thatch rope industry is mainly a female occupation, and earnings are between £1 10s. and £2 15s. per week; persons engaged in the manufacture of rope are invariably self-employed.

In most occupations there is a 40-hour working week, though store clerks and shop assistants normally work a 50-hour week.

### COST OF LIVING

The cost of living is high, mainly because the attractions of seafaring have caused a virtual abandonment of agriculture. The Dependency therefore produces only a small proportion of its foodstuffs, most of which are imported from Jamaica and the United States. The basic items of diet are bread, rice, beans, corn meal, sugar and coffee, supplemented by locally grown vegetables (such as yams, cassava, bread-fruit, pumpkins), fruit, fresh and salt meat and fish and the traditional turtle. Prices of staple commodities at the end of 1957 and 1958 were as follows:

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>1958</i>
Flour . . . .	lb.	10d.	10d.	
Corn meal . . . .	lb.	9d.	9d.	
Sugar (white) . . . .	lb.	8d.	8d.	
Beans . . . .	lb.	1s. 6d.	1s. 7d.	
Rice (patna) . . . .	lb.	1s. 5d.	1s. 6d.	
Fresh beef . . . .	lb.	1s. 7d.	2s. 0d. to 3s. 0d.	
Fresh pork . . . .	lb.	1s. 7d.	2s. 0d. to 3s. 0d.	
Fresh fish . . . .	lb.	1s. 0d.	2s. 0d.	
Salt beef . . . .	lb.	2s. 8d.	3s. 9d.	
Codfish . . . .	lb.	2s. 6d.	2s. 6d.	
Kerosene . . . .	gallon	3s. 0d.	3s. 1½d.	
Matches . . . .	box	1d.	1d.	
Tobacco leaf . . . .	lb.	8s. 6d.	10s. 0d.	
Cigarettes . . . .	packet of 20	1s. 3d.	1s. 6d. and 1s. 7d.	

The cost of running a house for a married couple from overseas wishing to settle in the Cayman Islands, including food, servants' wages, laundry, rent of a furnished house, lighting and moderate amount of entertaining, would be between £100 and £120 per month. The rates of the hotels in Grand Cayman are as follows:

#### Galleon Beach Hotel:

<i>Winter rates only</i>	Single Room . . . .	£8 15s. to £10 10s. per day
	Double Room . . . .	£12 12s. to £15 15s. per day

#### Sea View Lodge:

<i>Winter rates</i>	Single Room . . . .	£5 5s. per day
	Double Room . . . .	£7 3s. to £8 15s. per day
<i>Summer rates</i>	Single Room . . . .	£2 3s. to £3 per day
	Double Room . . . .	£4 4s. to £5 7s. per day

#### Pageant Beach Hotel:

<i>Winter rates</i>	Single Room . . . .	£5 5s. per day
	Double Room . . . .	£8 15s. to £11 7s. 6d. per day
<i>Summer rates</i>	Single Room . . . .	£3 10s. to £3 17s. to £4 18s. per day
	Double Room . . . .	£5 1s. 6d. to £5 15s. 6d. to £6 2s. 6d. to £7 17s. 6d. per day

#### Bay View Hotel:

<i>Winter rates</i>	Single Room . . . .	£3 3s. to £4 4s. per day
	Double Room . . . .	£5 12s. to £8 15s. per day
<i>Summer rates</i>	Single Room . . . .	£2 2s. and £2 15s. per day
	Double Room . . . .	£3 17s. to £4 18s. to £5 12s. per day

## Windsor House:

*Rates throughout the year* Single/Double . £1 15s. per day

## Buccaneer's Inn, Cayman Brac:

<i>Winter rates</i>	Single Room .	£4 18s. to £7 15s. 6d. per day
	Double Room .	£7 0s. to £7 17s. per day
<i>Summer rates</i>	Single Room .	£2 16s. to £3 3s. per day
	Double Room .	£4 11s. to £4 18s. per day

## LABOUR LEGISLATION

The Trade Union Law of 1942 provides for the formation, registration, rights, powers and control of trade unions, but none has in fact been formed. In December, 1946, the Minimum Wage Law was passed, and Regulations made thereunder were approved by the Governor in July, 1947. This Law gives power to fix a minimum wage for employees where the wages paid are unreasonably low: no orders have yet been made under it. There is no factory legislation.

## Chapter 3 : Public Finance and Taxation

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

THE revenue and expenditure of the Dependency for the past six years are set out below:

		Revenue	Expenditure
		£	£
1953-54	.	64,854	75,284*
1954-55	.	86,947	71,327
1955-56	.	104,551	84,909
1956-57	.	116,267	109,508
1957-58	.	156,130	179,567†
1958-59	.	173,921	173,158†‡

\* Includes £12,000 capital expenditure on new hospital.

† Includes capital expenditure on road construction (£49,684 in 1957-58 and £62,272† in 1958-59).

‡ Revised estimates.

## PUBLIC DEBT

The following table shows the position of loans at 31st December, 1958:

<i>Designation and Amount of Loan</i>	<i>Balance Outstanding on 31st December, 1958</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Hurricane Loan, 1933 £3,600 3%	Nil	Repayable to Government of Jamaica in 20 years from 1st April, 1938.
Public Works Loan, 1938 £6,500 3½%	£868 16s. 2d.	Repayable to Government of Jamaica in 20 years from 1st April, 1940.

The former loan was incurred to repair the damage caused by the hurricane of 1932, and the latter to erect public buildings.

During 1952 a loan of £55,500 was raised by the Cayman Islands Corporation from the Colonial Development Corporation to finance airfield construction. At the end of 1958 the sum of £41,625 was outstanding. This loan is guaranteed by the Cayman Islands Government.

During 1958, two twenty-year 6½ per cent Inter-Colonial Loans totalling £80,000 were raised: one of £60,000 by authority of the Road Construction (Inter-Colonial Loan) Law, 1957, Law 6 of 1957, and another of £20,000 by authority of the Owen Roberts Airfield (Inter-Colonial Loan) Law, 1958, Law 8 of 1958. Repayments will commence in 1960.

#### RESERVE FUNDS

The Reserve and Replacement Funds of the Dependency stand at £45,580 14s. 10d. These are as follows:

	£	s.	d.
General Reserve Fund	38,885	0	7
Hurricane Fund	2,845	17	5
Public Buildings Replacement Fund	3,420	15	5
Boat Replacement Fund	429	1	5

The assets of the first two funds are invested in British, Dominion and Colonial securities, held by the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations: all interest is re-invested. The assets of the two latter funds are held locally on Fixed Deposit with Barclays Bank, D.C.O.

#### TAXATION

The two principal sources of revenue are import duties and receipts from the sale of postage stamps. Revenue from these sources for the past six years has been as follows:

	<i>Import Duties</i>	<i>Sale of Stamps</i>
	£	£
1953-54	43,977	9,845
1954-55	52,451	24,255
1955-56	68,068	17,713
1956-57	85,120	11,181
1957-58	94,896	11,962
1958-59 (Revised Estimates)	110,000	19,000

Small taxes are levied on vehicles, bicycles, cattle, horses, dogs, firearms, boats, etc. Light dues are payable on shipping, and warehouse fees are collected from importers. There is no income tax, companies tax, land tax, estate duty or excise duty.

#### Customs Tariff

Under the Customs Tariff Law most articles imported into the Dependency are subject to an *ad valorem* duty of 20 per cent, cost, insurance and freight being taken into consideration in arriving at

the value of dutiable articles. There is a preferential and a general tariff for some articles such as aerated waters, beer, butter, margarine, bicycles, cement, spirits, wines, tea and tobacco; duty under the preferential tariff is in the main at the rate of 15 or 20 per cent *ad valorem*, and under the general tariff at the rate of 20 or 25 per cent *ad valorem*. The following are examples of specific duties:

	<i>Preferential</i>		<i>General Tariff</i>
	<i>Tariff</i>		
Beer, porter, etc.	4s. 6d.		6s. per gallon
Spirits	40s.		49s. per gallon
Cigarettes	19s.		20s. per 1,000
Leaf tobacco	8d.		9d. per pound
Wines	9s.		14s. per gallon

The above duties came into effect in 1958.

Certain articles are admitted free of customs duty, e.g., for the Armed Forces of the Crown or for the Commissioner, books, artificial limbs, wire screen cloth, mosquito netting, insecticides, fertilisers, etc.

#### *Tonnage Tax*

The Tonnage Tax Law, 1947, levies a tax computed on gross weight on all articles imported into the Cayman Islands for use in the Dependency. The rates of duty vary from 3d. to 6d. per package on packages of not more than 100 lb. gross weight: on gasoline the tax is 1s. per 50 gallons; on lumber 5s. per 1,000 superficial feet; on shingles 2s. per 1,000; on tiles, slates and roofing materials 15s. per 1,000; and on metals 2s. per cwt. The tonnage tax produces about £3,000 per annum.

Legislation is in force to attract pioneer industries and to encourage the erection and equipment of hotels by granting exemption, under specified condition, from import duty and tonnage tax on all building materials and equipment.

#### *Stamp Duties*

Under Law 9 of 1906, as amended in 1952, stamp duty ranging from 1d. to £4 4s. is payable on specified instruments and documents, such as agreements, bills of exchange, conveyances, deeds, leases, mortgages and receipts for money paid.

#### *Poll Tax*

A personal tax, which, from 1st January, 1959, was increased from 8s. a year to 20s. a year, is imposed on every male person from 18 to 60 years of age. This tax has produced a little over £1,000 a year in the past, and may be expected to bring in about £3,000 a year at the increased rate.

## *Chapter 4: Currency and Banking*

### CURRENCY

BRITISH silver and copper coins and Jamaican coins are in circulation. Silver coins are legal tender up to a value of 40s., and copper coins up to a value of 1s. Government of Jamaica notes of the denominations of £5, £1, and 10s. and 5s. are in circulation, and are unlimited legal tender. At the end of 1958 it was estimated that currency to a total value of £92,030 was in circulation.

### BANKING

In March, 1953, a branch of Barclays Bank, DCO, was opened in Grand Cayman. The banking facilities thus provided have been invaluable both to the commercial community and to the Government.

The Government continues to provide savings facilities in the shape of the Government Savings Bank, which conducts business in Georgetown, Grand Cayman and at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac. The Bank was established in 1908, and the Cayman Brac branch was opened in 1934. On 31st March, 1957, there were 2,328 open accounts, and the amount standing to the credit of depositors was £142,027. This compares with 478 accounts totalling £15,158 in 1941 and 1,570 accounts totalling £116,829 in 1950.

## *Chapter 5: Commerce*

THE prosperity of the Dependency continues to be due principally to the fact that a large number of the Dependency's seamen are employed on tankers and bulk cargo ships. These seamen remit to the islands a considerable proportion of their earnings. Other factors are the earnings of motor vessels engaged in the turtle and shark fisheries and in Caribbean Gulf carrying trade. The tourist business continues to make a steadily increasing contribution.

The values of imports and exports for the past six years were as follows:

<i>Year</i>		<i>Imports</i> £	<i>Exports</i> £
1953	.	273,621	37,553
1954	.	287,954	37,693
1955	.	330,175	66,235
1956	.	450,610	60,710
1957	.	472,434	33,838
1958	.	530,000	36,526

The value and quantity of the principal imports were as follows:

Commodity	Unit	Quantity	1957		1958	
			Value £	Quantity	Value £	Quantity
Flour	barrel	3,811	16,669	3,875	16,838	
Cornmeal	barrel	420	1,827	548	2,388	
Rice	cwt.	615	3,075	963	4,815	
Sugar	ton	470	19,740	380	16,264	
Textiles	—	—	24,000	—	25,000	
Oil—kerosene	gal.	70,356	5,920	130,460	11,271	
Oil—petrol	gal.	308,924	29,390	572,088	54,271	

The principal exports were as follows:

Commodity	Unit	Quantity	1957		1958	
			Value £	Quantity	Value £	Quantity
Turtles	No.	2,662	13,307	3,715	18,203	
Turtle skin	lb.	6,043	4,532	7,208	5,406	
Rope	1,000 fathoms	1,232	11,549	1,063	9,964	
Turtle shell	lb.	3,841	2,112	3,000	1,963	
Shark skins	No.	1,700	1,275	900	675	

Approximately two-thirds of the trade of the Dependency is with the United States, and most imports come from this source. Sugar, coffee, cement, liquors, petrol, kerosene, aviation gasoline and condensed milk are imported almost exclusively from Jamaica.

There are no re-exports from the Dependency.

## Chapter 6: Production

### LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

IT is impossible even to estimate the area of cultivable land in the Dependency: no cadastral survey has ever been undertaken, and in the past decade considerable areas which were once profitably cultivated have become overgrown and derelict. The islands are capable of producing a wide range of tropical fruits and vegetables, sometimes of exceptional quality (as in the case of citrus); but agriculture is handicapped by the fact that the Caymanian looks to the sea and not to the land as a means of earning a livelihood. As seafaring is so much more remunerative than agriculture, progressively more land goes out of cultivation because there is no labour to work it; as a consequence the islands have become almost wholly dependent on imported foodstuffs.

The best agricultural land is on the top of the Bluff in Cayman Brac, and at the eastern end of Grand Cayman, but nearly everywhere in the islands there are outcrops of decaying coral limestone, and it is doubtful if there is an acre of land, except on the eastern part of Cayman Brac Bluff, which is at present inaccessible except on foot,

which could be ploughed without fatal results to the plough. Pockets of loam are found amongst the older limestones, and these are of great fertility. In Grand Cayman there is a large area of swamp, which is never entered. Since the swamps are at sea level (indeed, they are affected by the levels of the tides), draining them is impossible. There is no handy high ground which could be used for filling them easily. Swamp reclamation, therefore, though feasible, would be extremely costly, and an investor would want to be assured of his returns before entering into any large-scale reclamation project. However, plans are being drawn up by persons interested in hotel and residential development between Georgetown and West Bay for a small-scale experimental reclamation.

All land is individually owned, and there is no legislation on land usage and tenure. There is no system of land registration, a fact which gives rise to some litigation, but this is adequately handled by the Courts. There has been a great deal of speculation in land during the past seven years, and land values have risen considerably. Beach land is at a premium, and all land suitable for building has greatly increased in price. The general trend is for more and more land to pass into fewer hands, in some cases into the hands of absentee proprietors: in the absence of land taxes and of legislation in regard to land usage, a good deal of land on valuable sites goes to waste, and development is hampered accordingly.

#### AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Although fresh vegetables are imported from Florida and command a ready sale at high prices, no interest is taken by islanders in their production locally. An attempt was made to encourage agriculture under a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme, which was started in 1950, but economic conditions in the Dependency were, from the first, against the scheme, which was wound up in 1952. It seems clear that it is only by concentrating on animal husbandry that sound and lasting results can be obtained. Many islanders of the older generation who have retired from the sea take a particular pride in their cattle and pastures. The cattle industry is believed to have possibilities, if abandoned and overgrown pastures could be mechanically cleared and good pasturage restored.

#### *Livestock*

The number of livestock, as disclosed by the 1943 census, was as follows:

		No.
Horses	:	79
Donkeys	:	101
Cattle	:	1,858
Goats	:	118
Poultry	:	11,135
Pigs	:	397

These figures probably represent an underestimate because horses and cattle are subject to a small tax and would be under-declared by

owners. Donkeys are a popular and cheap form of transport in country districts. The common pasturage is guinea grass, which grows abundantly; in Cayman Brac considerable damage has been done to pastures by the introduction, presumably by way of seed in straw material used for packing, of an inferior grass, unacceptable to cattle. There appears to be no prospect of its eradication.

All livestock slaughtered is for local consumption; the demand for meat is far in excess of the supply.

#### FORESTRY

The principal forest products are mahogany and the thatch palm (*Thrinax Argentea*). The latter provides the raw material for the thatch rope industry, the Dependency's principal peasant industry. Mahogany is chiefly used, in the shape of natural "bends", in the boat building industry, but is now seldom obtainable for decking or house building.

There is no apparent need for any active forest policy for the Dependency, and none is in effect.

#### FISHERIES

Deep-sea fishing for turtle (and to a lesser extent shark) is the Dependency's main local industry. It is operated by the owners of the few remaining schooners; the catch is taken on the banks, shoals and cays off the coast of Honduras and Nicaragua. Turtle fishing is a skilled pursuit traditional to Caymanians, and one in which they are expert. After capture green turtle are "crawled" in Grand Cayman and then exported alive to the United States by way of Key West and Tampa. The market for live turtle was good in both 1957 and 1958. Hawksbill turtle are captured for tortoiseshell, for which the market is moribund. It is likely to remain so; competition from plastics has already made hawksbill fishing wholly unremunerative as an independent pursuit, and the restricted supplies of shell which come on the market derive from the few hawksbill turtle caught in the process of fishing for green turtle. Shark skin and other shark products find a ready market in the United States.

In turtle fishing, the ship's company operates on the share principle. The owner of the vessel supplies the material for making nets, buoys, etc., and stores, while the crew provide their labour. From the gross proceeds of the catch a sum is paid to the Nicaraguan Government as royalty and the balance is divided between the crew and the owner. The crew pay for the stores supplied by the owner.

Coastwise fishing is undertaken by self-employed fishermen working in pairs, and their catch, which includes lobster, has a ready local sale. Demand for fresh fish exceeds the supply, and both canned fish and dried salt fish are imported extensively. In a report on the Fisheries of the Cayman Islands, written in 1946, Dr. E. F. Thompson stated:

"A very small amount of export could be taken locally, but there is far greater potential supply. The Cayman Islands are fitted by geographical position and seafaring tradition to exploit the fisheries resources of the Rosaline Bank, Mosquito Cays, Seranna and Seranilla Banks and the mass of small cays and islands in this region. From both theoretical reasoning and exhaustive information from practical fishermen it seems certain that these areas represent the chief potential source of fish within reach of Jamaica. At present these resources are not fished at all or only to a very limited extent. Fish from this source could be a partial solution to Jamaica's need for reducing her dependence on northern salt fish."

Up to the present no real attempt has been made to explore the fisheries resources of these banks, and it is impossible to say which is the correct one of the two contrary views—that the Caribbean is teeming with fish waiting for intelligent exploitation, or that the Caribbean is, from the point of view of commercial fishing, a marine desert. It is unlikely that anything can be done to build up a fishing industry until a research vessel has, by practical operation, shown whether fish exist in commercial quantity, and, if so, whether they could be economically marketed. This would involve heavy capital expenditure and there is no immediate prospect of such research being undertaken.

All three islands, particularly the Lesser Islands, offer excellent sport for the game fisherman, during the winter months in particular, and suitable vessels for this purpose are now becoming more numerous.

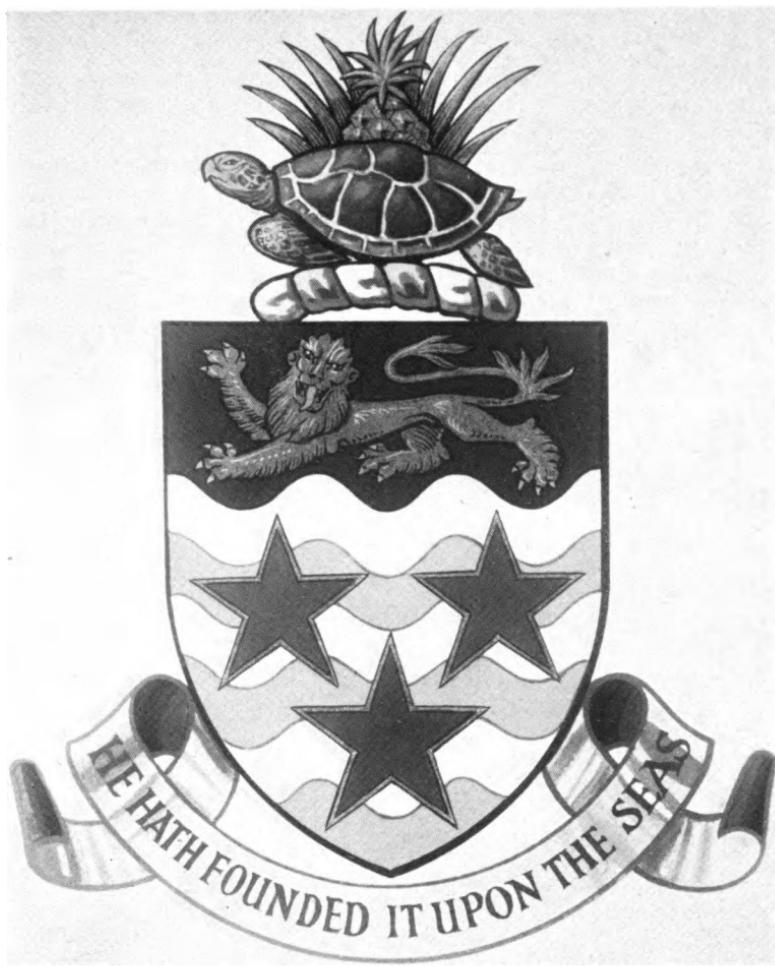
#### MINING

There is no mining in the Cayman Islands. In the late nineteenth century phosphate deposits were worked both in Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac, but these were of poor quality, and the discovery of phosphate beds in Florida finally killed this enterprise. An oil exploration licence in respect of the island of Grand Cayman was granted in 1956 for a period of two years, and some exploratory drilling was carried out.

#### MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

The manufacture of thatch rope is a cottage industry on which many of the poorer people are dependent for a living. The entire output of rope, which has the advantage of being remarkably resistant to salt water, is absorbed by the Jamaica fishing industry. The rope is bought and exported by Government through the Jamaica Co-operative Union. Since 1956 the price paid to the producer has been £7 per 1,000 fathoms. The only other manufacturing industries in the Dependency are two concrete block-making concerns, a small modern bakery and a small tile-making concern, located in Georgetown.

The Pioneer Industries (Encouragement) Law, of 1950, and the Hotels Aid Law, grant relief from customs duty and tonnage tax to persons establishing factories or erecting hotels, for a wide range of articles such as building materials and equipment.



*The Coat of Arms of the Cayman Islands*



(Bentley Ryan)

*Ship-building: Work in Cayman Brae on a barge for the Turks Island salt industry*



(Innis McTaggart)

*Unloading green turtle at Grand Cayman*



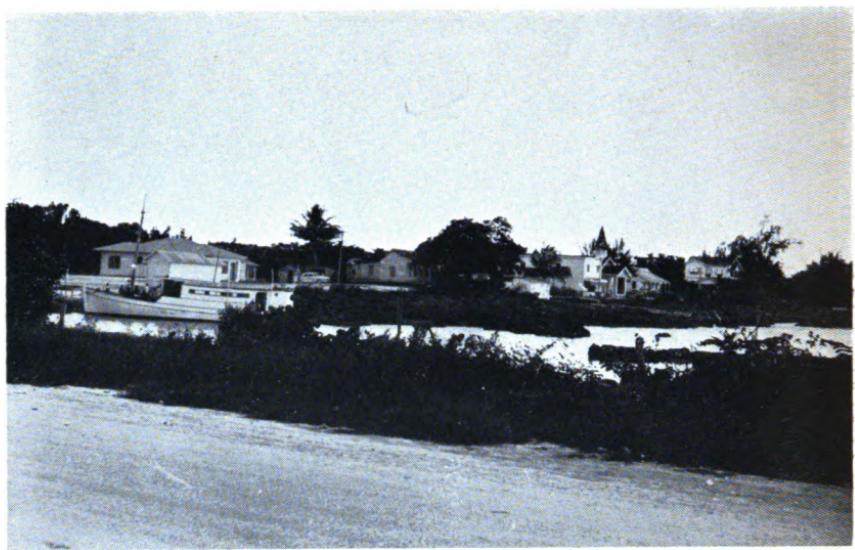
(Leslie E. Hines)

*M.V. Merco and M.V. Judy docked in George Town Harbour with  
S.S. Evangeline (Cruise Ship) anchored behind*



(Patrick Broderick)

*The fruits of a seafaring life: trim new homes replace the old in East End,  
Grand Cayman*



(Leslie E. Hines)

*George Town Waterfront*



(Leslie E. Hines)

*Airport resurfacing work in progress*

The boat-building industry, for which the Dependency was once famous, has practically died out: only a few small craft for local use were built in 1957 and 1958, and one of the two salt barges referred to in the first chapter was completed and launched during December, 1958.

#### CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The West Bay Co-operative Association is the only co-operative society in the Dependency which functions with any degree of success.

### *Chapter 7: Social Services*

#### EDUCATION

PRIMARY education is free and compulsory for all children between the ages of seven and eleven. There are no nursery or kindergarten schools. Where staffing and accommodation allow, pupils of six years of age are admitted to the primary schools. Reading books and writing apparatus are supplied free to those pupils who are unable to pay for them. Otherwise they are sold at cost to the pupils.

Control is exercised by a Board of Education constituted under law. Included in the membership of that Board is a teacher nominated by the Cayman Islands Teachers' Association. The Board is responsible for the formulation of the educational policy of the Dependency.

During 1957 and 1958 there were in operation in the Dependency eleven Government primary schools, seven of which were in Grand Cayman, three in Cayman Brac and one in Little Cayman. The Board is considering closing the latter school as the teacher and his children are now residing at Cayman Brac, and no suitable person can be found to teach the remaining three pupils. Arrangements will be made for them to receive instruction at schools in Cayman Brac.

The Seventh Day Adventist Church operates a small private primary school in Georgetown, Grand Cayman.

In 1957, 846 children were enrolled at all Government primary schools and the average attendance was 656, or 77.5 per cent.

Secondary education continues to improve. The Government now gives a grant-in-aid of £1,800 to the Cayman High School. In addition Government provides scholarships to the value of £200 per annum at the Cayman High School for pupils from the primary schools. Enrolment at the Cayman High School is increasing annually. The Triple C School, operated by the Church of God, provides a secondary education on American lines, but does not prepare candidates for any external examination.

At the end of 1958 there were employed in the schools 30 teachers, including the person in charge of the school at Little Cayman. Of this number, 6 are men and 24 are women. There are 10 certificated teachers. At the end of 1958 one student had completed the teacher-training course at Shortwood College in Jamaica.

The total Government expenditure on education in 1957-58 was £13,823, including provision for two overseas scholarships—one in dentistry and the other in law.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

At the end of 1958 the following full-time personnel were employed in the Dependency's medical and health service: one medical officer, one dental officer, one health officer, one matron, five nurses, an X-ray and laboratory technician, a dispenser and a hospital clerk. All these are stationed in Grand Cayman, though the medical and dental officers pay periodic visits to the Lesser Islands. A dispenser is stationed in Cayman Brac, and a subsidy is paid to a midwife who does general maternity work amongst the people of that island. The existence of a regular air service between Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac has meant that urgent cases can receive prompt and skilled attention in the Georgetown Hospital. There is also a District Surgeon who is a private practitioner subsidised by Government, and an unsubsidised private practitioner, an Englishman who has been resident on the island for 25 years.

The Government hospital in Georgetown was greatly improved during 1957 and 1958 by provision of additional medical and surgical equipment and of a kitchen preparing low-cost meals for patients, the last being run at first by the Hospital Fund Committee but now completely taken over by Government. The establishment of trained nursing staff, has been maintained by continuing to offer special terms and facilities to nurses seconded from the Medical Service of Jamaica. It is fair to say that considering the size of both the Dependency and the hospital, the islands possess one of the best equipped and most efficiently run hospitals in The West Indies. It is proposed to erect an isolation block for infectious diseases of about six beds: it is hoped that construction will begin in 1959.

During 1957 and 1958 the health of the Dependency was very satisfactory. The principal causes of mortality were, as before, cardiovascular disease, pneumonia, neoplasma and *status epilepticus*. In 1957 and 1958, ages at death were as follows:

		1957	1958
Under 1 year	.	8	7
1-10 years	.	4	7
10-20 years	.	3	—
20-30 years	.	1	4
30-40 years	.	2	1
40-50 years	.	1	4
50-60 years	.	4	1
60-70 years	.	5	12
70-80 years	.	15	11
80-90 years	.	14	16
90-100 years	.	2	3
100-110 years	.	1	—
		<u>60</u>	<u>66</u>

The main causes of morbidity, in order of frequency, were: hypochondriasis and neurosis, respiratory tract infections, gynaecological disorders, helminthic infestation in children, hypertension and hypersensitive cardio-vascular disease.

There were 716 admissions to the hospital during 1957 and 732 during 1958. Out-patients numbered 3,500 in 1957 and 6,700 in 1958. In 1957 there were 48 major and 136 minor operations: the figures for 1958 were 51 major and 90 minor operations. There were two or three cases of typhoid in each year. Both the patients and the contacts were satisfactorily dealt with. During 1957 there were 4 cases of poliomyelitis; a vigorous campaign of immunisation of children with Salk vaccine was instituted and completed early in 1958. In 1958 there were no cases of poliomyelitis.

It is significant that more and more people are making use of the available facility of the hospital and Government medical services. The presence of the District Surgeon has meant an alleviation of the burden hitherto placed on the Government medical officer for home calls. The position in Cayman Brac still leaves much to be desired.

A newly appointed health officer is undergoing a course of training at the Public Health School in Jamaica and it is hoped that his return will herald a more satisfactory organisation in public health and sanitation.

The hospital was fortunate in securing the services of Dr. Leighton Clarke of Jamaica for eye surgery while he was on a fishing vacation in the islands. The Government medical officer experienced no difficulty in getting the co-operation of the blood bank in Jamaica when the urgent need for blood transfusions arose. On no occasion was an appeal denied—indeed, it is of significance that on one occasion when three pints were received in Grand Cayman, on that very day the bank issued an urgent radio appeal for donors, as their stocks were then reduced to six pints.

Many of the American specialists visiting the islands during the winter have been happy to give help and advice.

Increased consciousness of the value of the attention of the dentist has kept the Government dental officer consistently busy in Grand Cayman and during two visits yearly to the Lesser Islands. The principal causes of dental disorders are, firstly, the drinking of rain-water by the majority of the islanders, resulting in hypocalcified and brittle teeth, and, secondly, the lack of vitamins, particularly vitamins A, C and D in the food, resulting in unhealthy gums. It is noticeable that in the Spot Bay district of Cayman Brac where well water is used more than rain water, and more fresh fruit and vegetables are grown than in other parts, the general condition of the people's teeth is better than elsewhere in the islands. Dental treatment is sometimes complicated by the fact that a number of the people suffer from haemophilia.

The total expenditure on medical and health services in the financial year 1957-58 was £18,091 and in the financial year 1958-59 was £19,000 (estimated).

### HOUSING

The average standard of housing in the Dependency is high. Wooden dwellings predominate, but nearly all new construction is in concrete; roofing is normally corrugated iron, though a fair number of houses can still be found roofed with shingles, and more rarely with the leaves of the thatch palm. The roof serves as a catchment area for rainwater which is stored in concrete cisterns: these cisterns provide water for drinking and for washing, and in the better homes with water-borne sanitation cistern water is supplemented by well water for flushing toilets. A high proportion of the houses is attractively designed, and nearly all are well built.

Most houses are surrounded by a generous piece of ground, laid out with fruit trees and flowering shrubs, but the tendency is for building land to fetch higher and higher prices, with the result that new building lots are becoming progressively smaller. Nearly all houses are owned by their occupiers, and it is accordingly very difficult to obtain houses for rental, either for permanent occupation or for temporary occupation by tourists.

There are no building societies in the Dependency, nor are there any taxes or rates on house property.

### SOCIAL WELFARE

Government funds for poor relief are administered by the Administrative Assistant to the Commissioner, assisted by voluntary representatives in the several districts. The recipients of poor relief are principally the aged and, in some cases, the dependants of seamen who have failed to return to the Dependency and have abandoned their families. Mental cases are sent to the mental hospital in Jamaica, the cost of their maintenance being met from the funds of the Dependency.

The Cayman Welfare Association was constituted early in 1958 with the principal objects of co-ordinating charitable and welfare work of the Government, the Churches, and individuals, and of investigating the needs of the people in this sphere. The Association has done valuable work in investigating applications for charitable assistance, and particularly in assisting poor people in such matters as repairing their houses; they have often been able to arrange for local artisans to contribute free labour, so that limited funds could be used entirely for providing part or all of the materials. They have also been able to obtain used materials in good condition for a low price to use in charitable work.

The Public Library, Georgetown, is housed in a commodious and attractive concrete building and is maintained by the Government. During 1957 and 1958 several hundred new volumes were added to the stock of books; and there was a marked increase in the number of people using the library, particularly amongst school children.

The Girls' Guildry movement, the Cayman Islands Boy Scouts' Association and the Wolf Cub Pack at Georgetown have all success-

fully continued their activities. The East End Citizens' Association and the First Cayman Pioneer Club at Bodden Town, whose objects are the encouragement of communal activities, continue to flourish.

In general there is a lack of recreational facilities in the Dependency; the playing of games is being encouraged in the schools, but progress is slow.

## Chapter 8: Legislation

LEGISLATION enacted during 1957 and 1958 was as follows:

### 1957

Law 1 of 1957. *The Appropriation Law, 1957.*

Law 2 of 1957. *The Cayman Islands Public Service Loan Guarantee Law, 1957*, a measure to authorise the Government of the Cayman Islands to guarantee a loan of £25,000 from Barclays Overseas Development Corporation, Limited, to the Cayman Islands Public Service, Limited.

Law 3 of 1957. *The Turtle Industry Regulations (Repeal) Law, 1957.*

Law 4 of 1957. *The Grand Cayman Cannery (Import Duty and Tonnage Tax) (Relief) (Repeal) Law, 1957.*

Law 5 of 1957. *The Cayman Islands Public Service Loan Guarantee (Amendment) Law, 1957.*

Law 6 of 1957. *The Road Construction (Inter-Colonial Loan) Law, 1957*, a measure to confer power to raise by loan a sum not exceeding £60,000 to defray a portion of the costs of financing a programme of major road construction work in the island of Grand Cayman.

Law 7 of 1957. *The Roads Law, 1957*, a measure to provide for the proper construction and maintenance of Public Roads.

### 1958

Law 1 of 1958. *The Tariff (Amendment) Law, 1958*, a measure to provide for an increase in the import duties payable in the Cayman Islands.

Law 2 of 1958. *The Export Duty (Spirits) (Amendment) Law, 1958*, a measure similarly to provide for an increase in the export duty payable on spirits.

Law 3 of 1958. *The Roads (Amendment) Law, 1957.*

Law 4 of 1958. *The Appropriation Law, 1958.*

Law 5 of 1958. *The Firearms (Amendment) Law, 1958.*

Law 6 of 1958. *The Tax Collection and Internal Revenue (Amendment) Law, 1958.*

Law 7 of 1958. *The Government Savings Bank (Amendment) Law, 1958.*

Law 8 of 1958. *The Owen Roberts Airport (Inter-Colonial Loan) Law, 1958*, a measure to confer the power to raise by loan a sum not exceeding £20,000 to defray a portion of the costs of resurfacing and other improvements at Owen Roberts Airport in the Island of Grand Cayman.

Law 9 of 1958. *The Roads (Amendment) (No. 2) Law, 1958.*

## *Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons*

### **JUSTICE**

At the end of 1956 legislation had been enacted both by the Justices and Vestry of the Cayman Islands and by the Legislature of Jamaica to provide for reform of the administration of justice in the Dependency by the setting up of a resident Magistrate's Court. A Stipendiary Magistrate was appointed in April, 1957, and has taken over the greater part of the summary work of the Petty Courts and the Petty Sessions Courts. In the absence of appointment of a Judge of the Cayman Islands, the Magistrate has jurisdiction as Judge of the Grand Court except in cases of capital felony.

The Stipendiary Magistrate has his headquarters in Georgetown, but also holds Courts in the Lesser Islands periodically. During 1957 and 1958 the courts of the Dependency were as follows:

The Grand Court of the Cayman Islands  
The Quarterly Petty Court  
The Petty Sessions Court.

*The Grand Court* is constituted by Act 3 of 1889, sections 5 to 8 (Cayman Islands) and Cap. 493 of Jamaica Laws Revised Edition. It sits twice a year in June and December, and has jurisdiction as follows:

- (a) In civil matters where the amount claimed in contract or tort exceeds £10, bankruptcy, equity, and probate and administration.
- (b) In all felonies and indictable misdemeanors and in certain other cases where under the Law creating the offence jurisdiction is given to a Resident Magistrate in Jamaica; in the latter type of case the Judge presides without a jury.
- (c) This Court is also the Court of Appeal from decisions of the Petty Courts, Petty Sessions Court and Liquor Licensing Board.

*The Quarterly Petty Court* presided over by the Stipendiary Magistrate has jurisdiction to hear and determine all actions arising from contract or tort or from both, and trespass to lands when the debt or damages claimed do not exceed the sum of £10, and in which no question of the title to real estate is involved. This Court has power, moreover, to try all cases in which disputes have arisen relative to the boundaries of lands where it is necessary to have a view.

*The Petty Sessions Court* presided over by the Stipendiary Magistrate sits regularly on Friday of each week but the Stipendiary

Magistrate sits occasionally during the week to dispose of any outstanding matters. In this Court the Stipendiary Magistrate deals with all summary trials. This Court also conducts preliminary examinations in indictable offences. The examinations are conducted before two Justices of the Peace.

Appeals from the Grand Court are to the Court of Appeal in Jamaica in criminal matters and to the Federal Supreme Court of The West Indies in civil matters.

The number of persons dealt with by the Courts are shown in Appendices II and III.

#### POLICE

As a result of recommendations made by the Commissioner of Police, Jamaica, a new post was created of Chief of Police.

The post was filled by an officer of wide police experience who arrived in the island on 1st October, 1958. In December of the same year the Chief of Police recommended the promotion of the sergeant in Georgetown to the rank of sub-inspector and this was duly approved by the Governor.

The Force at the time of writing consists of the Chief of Police, one sub-inspector, one sergeant, one corporal, two acting corporals, nine second class constables and five district constables. Of this establishment, one sergeant and one constable are stationed at Cayman Brac and two constables at West Bay. Two women constables are on the strength of the Force. Recruiting is not easy owing to the counter attraction of high wages paid to seamen.

There is little serious crime, though the island felt the impact of the Cuban revolution by being utilised as a channel for smuggling arms into Cuba, a cache of arms being uncovered at Owen Roberts Field.

Motor offences since the building of the new road system are fairly numerous, particularly speeding during the late hours, but there is now considerable improvement.

Three hundred and fifty-one vehicles were inspected by the Police during 1958 prior to being licensed.

#### PRISONS

There is a small gaol at Georgetown—a concrete building with six cells opening on to a small courtyard. It is used for prisoners with short sentences and for those sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment with hard labour for a term of six months or upwards who are awaiting transfer to the General Penitentiary in Jamaica. There is no permanent prison staff, as the gaol is more often than not empty. The Police perform warden duties as and when required, and temporary female staff are employed on the rare occasions when a female is imprisoned.

## *Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works*

### **PUBLIC UTILITIES**

**CAYMAN PUBLIC SERVICE, LIMITED**, operates the only public utility in the Cayman Islands—the supply of electricity. The power-supply is good, but some of the equipment used is second-hand and does not operate economically. This, coupled with a much slower expansion than was anticipated, has resulted in the company's having some financial difficulties, which have been only partly relieved by a loan of £25,000 guaranteed by the Government.

The Company also operates a small ice-plant.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

The Public Works Department consists of a Superintendent of Works, a clerk, and a varying number of daily-paid carpenters and general handymen. The Department is concerned almost exclusively with maintenance of roads, Government vehicles, public buildings, light-houses, and the very exiguous telephone system.

## *Chapter 11: Communications*

### **SHIPPING**

**GEORGETOWN** is a port of registry with 27 vessels, totalling 9,872 gross tons, on the register. The Dependency is not served by any steamship line. Sea communications are maintained by a number of motor vessels and schooners with auxiliary engines. These vessels do not operate to regular schedule, though the M.V. *Merco* of 128 tons owned by the Merren Shipping Company of Grand Cayman and the M.V. *Kirkco* of 201 tons owned by the Kirkconnell Company of Cayman Brac both maintain services at approximately monthly intervals between Kingston, Jamaica, and Tampa, Florida, calling in at Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac—and sometimes at Little Cayman—on the way. The 85-ton *Addie H* (owned by Farrington Brothers of West Bay, Grand Cayman) runs less frequently between Grand Cayman and Tampa, Florida, calling at the Isle of Pines, Cuba, on the way. Other cargo vessels call at Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac at reasonably frequent intervals, but there is a persistent shortage of shipping space, with the result that cargo for the Dependency accumulates with distressing frequency at both Kingston and in Florida.

Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is the principal port of the Dependency. The anchorage area, in which there is ample depth of water for ocean-going vessels, is approximately half-a-mile north to south by a quarter of a mile east to west. Port facilities are poor. Vessels of shallow draught are able to use a small natural wharf of some 75 feet in length, alongside which the depth at low water varies from eight to twelve feet. A small transit shed adjoins the wharf. There is no lighterage service and there are no bunkering facilities.

#### ROADS AND VEHICLES

Of the 65 miles of motorable roads in the Dependency, 44 are in Grand Cayman and 21 in Cayman Brac. Little Cayman is served by footpaths only. In Grand Cayman the principal road, approximately 30 miles in length, closely follows the line of the coast from Boatswain Bay to the north-west, through West Bay, Georgetown and Bodden Town, to East End on the south-east coast. This connects all the larger settlements with the exception of North Side, which is served by a branch road which takes in Old Man Bay and joins the main road on the south coast at Frank Sound. A road-improvement scheme which is designed to provide an asphalted main road from West Bay through Georgetown to Bodden Town in Grand Cayman, with improvements to the existing roads to East End and North Side, was put into operation with Colonial Development and Welfare help on 1st November, 1957, and is expected to be completed during the first quarter of 1959. The work is being done by a construction company domiciled in Nassau, Bahamas, with resident survey staff of the Jamaica Public Works Department, and periodic inspection by a representative of the Director of Public Works, Jamaica. Other roads are poor, having been built without drainage (which is usually impracticable owing to the general flatness and low level of the land), without camber, and too narrow to permit any distribution of load over the surface.

There are no regular omnibus services in Grand Cayman, but a number of motor vehicles make regular journeys from the country districts, carrying passengers, firewood, thatch rope and small quantities of agricultural produce, and, on the return journey, stores and passengers. In Cayman Brac two lorries have been converted into omnibuses and maintain a regular service from one end of the island to the other. There are approximately 351 privately owned motorcars, trucks and station wagons in the Dependency. Much use is made of bicycles.

#### AIR SERVICES

At the end of 1958 the Dependency was served by two overseas airlines, British West Indian Airways (a subsidiary of B.O.A.C.), and LACSA (Lineas Aereas Costarricenses, S.A.—an affiliate of Pan American Airways). Internally the Dependency is served by Cayman

Brac Airways, Limited (a subsidiary of LACSA). B.W.I.A. operates two services each week to and from Kingston/Grand Cayman/Miami, Florida. LACSA operates a twice-weekly service to and from Panama City/San Jose, Costa Rica/Grand Cayman/Miami. There was a steady increase in traffic in both 1957 and 1958, passengers consisting principally of tourists and seamen. Extensive use was made of the Grand Cayman Airfield by freighter aircraft operated by LACSA and towards the end of 1958 by LANICA (Nicaraguan Airways), the island being a useful refuelling point for heavily laden south-bound cargo aircraft.

At the end of 1958 the airstrip at Cayman Brac had been extended to 2,800 feet, and Cayman Brac Airways, Limited, designated as a regular scheduled carrier, made two flights weekly in each direction between Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac. In this case also, passenger traffic showed a steady increase, but unfortunately still not an increase sufficient to enable the Company to operate without loss. A satisfactory aspect in respect of all three passenger lines has been the increase of traffic during the summer months.

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

No cable communication exists and there are no inland telegraphs. There is a wireless station at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, with a range of 1,000 miles and a smaller station at Cayman Brac with a range of 150 miles. Both stations work fixed schedules daily with Jamaica and messages are transmitted between Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac twice daily. The station at Grand Cayman also transmits meteorological reports to Havana, Cuba, every morning and evening.

There are inefficient telephone systems in both Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac: there are no private subscribers.

The wireless station equipment is obsolescent. New equipment is on order and was to be installed in the early part of 1959.

#### POSTAL SERVICES

Year by year the volume of mail increases and the revenue collected from stamps increases accordingly. In June, 1958, three denominations of aerogrammes were placed on sale at Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac Post Offices and in January, 1959, there was a first issue of the Cayman Islands £1 Stamp.

In addition to the post offices at Georgetown, and at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac, there are sub-post offices at West Bay, Bodden Town, East End, North Side, South Sound, West End (Cayman Brac), Creek (Cayman Brac) and Little Cayman.

There is a twice-weekly air mail service between Grand Cayman and the Lesser Islands, and a thrice-weekly service in Grand Cayman between Georgetown and the other districts by contracted mail carriers.

## **Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services**

### **PRESS**

A monthly religious tract, *The Gospel of the Kingdom*, printed in Grand Cayman, carries a small amount of purely domestic news. The *Daily Gleaner*, published in Kingston, reaches Grand Cayman twice weekly by air, and has a fair circulation. A number of people also take the *Miami Herald* and *Miami News* published in Miami, Florida.

### **FILMS**

There is one open-air cinema in Georgetown, Grand Cayman, which is open five nights a week, one in West Bay, one in Bodden Town, and one in Cayman Brac, which is operated in a hall above a store. A second cinema was about to open in Georgetown at the end of 1958.

### **OTHER SERVICES**

There are no broadcasting or Government information services.

## PART III

### *Chapter 1: Geography and Climate*

#### GEOGRAPHY

THE Cayman Islands consist of three islands—Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman—which lie in the Caribbean Sea between  $19^{\circ} 15'$  and  $19^{\circ} 45'$  north latitude and  $79^{\circ} 44'$  and  $81^{\circ} 27'$  west longitude. The islands are projecting peaks of the Cayman Ridge, a range of submarine mountains continuous with the Sierra Maestra Range of Cuba and running west to the Mysterious Bank in the direction of British Honduras.

*Grand Cayman*, which is situated about 180 miles west-north-west of the westernmost point of Jamaica and about 150 miles south of Cuba, is roughly 22 miles long from east to west with a maximum width of about eight miles. Its most striking topographical feature is the shallow reef-protected harbour of North Sound, which is seven and a half miles long by six miles wide and which almost cuts the island into two parts. The area of Grand Cayman is approximately 76 square miles. The island is divided into six districts, viz., Georgetown (population 1,462), West Bay (population 1,866), Prospect (population 414), Bodden Town (population 618), North Side (population 387) and East End (population 564).

*Cayman Brac*, which lies 89 miles east-north-east of Grand Cayman, is the most elevated and the most striking in appearance. It is about 12 miles in length, with an average width of a little over a mile and an area of approximately 14 square miles. Cayman Brac is divided into four districts: Stake Bay, West End, Creek and Spot Bay (population 1,296).

*Little Cayman*, five miles to the westward of Cayman Brac, is 10 miles long with a maximum width of two miles and an area of about 10 square miles. Little Cayman is divided into two districts: South Town (population 63) and Jacksons (no inhabitants).

The population figures shown were obtained from the 1943 census.

In his *Geology of the Cayman Islands*, Dr. C. A. Matley describes the islands as follows:

"All the islands are low-lying, and do not attain anywhere a height of more than 60 feet above sea-level, except Cayman Brac, the eastern end of which rises to 140 feet. Viewed from the sea, they have a general resemblance to the flat-topped islands of the Bahama group. They are formed entirely of calcareous rocks, which the present survey has shown to be separable into two formations. An older limestone, which I call the Bluff Limestone, forms the central and larger part of each island; and a younger formation of consolidated coral-sand and marl, with

some limestone, which I call the Ironshore Formation, occupies most of the periphery as a low coastal terrace, and generally terminates abruptly inland against raised marine cliffs of the Bluff Limestone. In addition to the above are the recent deposits which, at sea, are living coral-reefs that almost surround the islands of Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, but occur only to a limited extent to the south-west of Cayman Brac, and, ashore, consist of blown coral-sand and storm beaches of coral shingle piled up by winds, storms, and hurricanes on the seaward side of the coastal platform. All the islands are entirely devoid of streams, owing to the porosity of the limestones, and even dry valleys are absent."

Even the layman's eye can see at once that the geological formation is not conducive to modern methods of agriculture: there is an area of arable land on top of the bluff in Cayman Brac, but elsewhere cultivable soil is to be found only in pockets separated by rock, either actually outcropping, or coming so close to the surface as to prevent the use of a plough. There are many cracks and fissures in the rock, usually with fertile soil in them, and excellent citrus, pawpaws, bananas, breadfruit, and ground crops such as cassava and yams, can be grown and harvested, but only by manual labour under wasteful conditions, so that agriculture offers little reward. In some parts there are good pastures, and a few of the islanders still go in for raising cattle.

Some ten miles west of Grand Cayman is an area of shoal water known as the Cayman Bank, which is five miles long and about half-a-mile wide, with depths of 15 to 20 fathoms. Its platform-like surface is surrounded on all sides by steep slopes.

South of the Cayman group, at distances varying from 25 to 50 miles, lies the Bartlett Deep, which is some 50 to 90 miles wide and extends in an east-and-west direction from the Gulf of Honduras to Western Haiti. Ten soundings of over 3,000 fathoms have been obtained, the sounding south of Grand Cayman being 3,428 fathoms.

#### CLIMATE

The climate of the Cayman Islands is for the greater part of the year excellent; as the islands lie in the latitude of the Trade Winds, there are few days of calm and the north-east breezes temper even the hottest days. Only when the wind veers to the south-east or south can the temperature be deemed oppressive.

The seasons are fairly well-defined. The period May to October is the hot season, when the temperature ranges from 70° to 85° F. and the prevailing winds are from east to south. During this period the rainfall is comparatively heavy and mosquitoes can be a major pest. The cool season is from November to April when the range of temperature is 10° lower, and the prevailing winds from north-east to north-west. The pleasantest period is from mid-November to mid-March, when the weather is generally cool and there are few, if any, mosquitoes.

The total rainfall for the years 1957 and 1958 was 36.77 and 58.97 inches respectively, the average being around 60 inches per annum.

The hurricane season lasts from July to November, and the islands have been hit periodically. The last visitation of this kind was in October, 1944, though in October, 1952, the islands narrowly escaped severe damage, catching the edge of a hurricane whose centre passed only 40 miles to the west of Grand Cayman. Hurricane threats in 1958 are referred to on page 10.

A meteorological station was erected in Georgetown, Grand Cayman, in 1955, by the Cuban Department of Agriculture, and trained observers from the National Observatory at Havana are stationed there throughout the year. Reports are exchanged twice daily with Havana, whence weather information is retransmitted throughout the Caribbean.

In 1956 a combined Anglo-United States hurricane research station was established for a three-year period in Grand Cayman. It is anticipated that this three-year period will be extended by one year. The station is in charge of an officer of the United States Weather Bureau, assisted by a staff of West Indians.

## Chapter 2: History

THE islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman were first sighted by Columbus in May, 1503, in the course of a voyage from Porto Bello (Panama) to Hispaniola (Haiti and Santo Domingo), but his storm-battered vessels made no landing on the islands: the chronicler simply records that Columbus, noting the abundance of turtle in the waters, named the islands "Les Tortugas", and went on his way. The claim has been made that the islands, bearing no name, appear on the Cantino chart of 1503 in approximately their correct position, but more recent examination of early maps by Dr. Edwin Beale Doran, Jr., indicates that the Maggiolo map of 1518 is most probably the first which shows the islands located with any degree of geographic knowledge. As early as 1530 the name "Caymanes" had been applied to the group, and was almost invariably used on maps thereafter.

No settlement was made on the islands, but from the earliest times the prodigious number of turtle found around the islands attracted ships of all nations for revictualling purposes. As many as forty sloops at a time from Port Royal alone were to be found loading turtle in Cayman waters, and Professor Archie Carr in his book *The Windward Road* has pointed out that this fecund source of fresh food for scurvy-ridden ships was a significant and important factor in the opening of the Caribbean, and had a direct and traceable effect on the course of colonisation. Captain William Jackson visited Grand Cayman in 1643 after his abortive attempt on Jamaica and describes Grand Cayman as follows:

"This place is low land and all rockye, and there be other 2 Islands of ye same name and Qualitie, being by ye Spaniards called Chimanoe, from ye multitude of Alligators here found which are Serpents, if not resembling ye Crocodiles of Egypt. Hither doe infinit numbers of sea tortoises resorte to lay their eggs upon ye Sandy Bay, which at this time (June) swarm so thick. The Island is much frequented by English, Dutch and French ships, that come purposely to salt up ye flesh of these Tortoises."

Jamaica was taken in 1655, and, by the Treaty of Madrid in 1670, was ceded to the British Crown, and with it the Cayman Islands.

The islands were for a long period a favoured haunt of pirates, and "The Caymanes" are named frequently in pirate literature. Teach (Blackbeard), who was clearly not above snapping up unconsidered trifles, is recorded as having taken a "small turtler" at Grand Cayman, and the following extract from Johnsons' *General History of the Pirates*, and relating to the year 1722, is illuminating:

"I should have observed, that when the *Lucretia* and *Katherine* was suffered to go away, the Pyrates detained their Mate, who was now the only man aboard, who understood navigation, and him they desired to take upon him the Command of the Sloop, in the room of Captain Evans deceased: but he desired to be excus'd that Honour, and at length positively refused it; so they agreed to break up the Company, and leave the Mate in Possession of the Vessel: accordingly they went ashore at the Caimanes, carrying with them about nine thousand pounds amongst thirty persons: and it being fair weather, the Mate and a Boy brought the vessel into Port Royal, in Jamaica."

The earliest inhabitants were mixed groups of shipwrecked sailors, marooned mariners, debtors, buccaneers and beachcombers, and no serious settlement took place till the early part of the eighteenth century: the earliest record of a grant of land is in 1734, followed by further patents in 1741: the families of "Bodden" and "Foster" are in all probability descendants from these patentees, some of whom bore these names.

By the end of the eighteenth century the ruthless exploitation of Cayman turtle had so far reduced their number that their extermination was made certain, and the inhabitants of Grand Cayman (who had practically no alternative resources) were compelled to go further afield in search of new turtle fisheries. They first went north to Cuba, where their tendency to supplement fishing with wrecking and brigandage did little to commend them to the Spaniards, who as late as 1798 appealed to the Spanish Government to "wipe out the Pirate's nest" which was Grand Cayman. The Cuban turtle suffered the same fate as those in Grand Cayman, and before 1850 Caymanians had turned south to the Central American coast, where turtle fishing continues to the present day.

The islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman were permanently settled only in 1833, when several families from Grand Cayman established themselves on Cayman Brac, where they lived in isolation till 1850, when, then numbering 36, they built themselves a boat. It is interesting to note that as late as 1877 there was no administrative

connection between Grand Cayman and the Lesser Islands; in 1877 a Justice of the Peace was appointed in Cayman Brac; not till 1887 was any more formal connection established; this was done in a rather absentminded fashion, and produces anomalies up to the present day.

The islands were favourably located for trade with passing shipping in the days of sail, but as the nineteenth century advanced and steam gradually replaced sail, the islands became more and more cut off from the outside world, a state of affairs which lasted, effectively, until the 1940's and the era of air transportation. The result was extensive emigration to Nicaragua, and the settlement of the Bay Islands (at one time British but now part of Spanish Honduras), and later extensive emigration to Florida.

There has been a good deal of argument about the origin of the name "Cayman": Jackson's description of his "Serpents" could well refer to iguanas, and in a recently published French account of Drake's voyage of 1586 (*The Roanoke Voyage*, Hakluyt Society, 1955) an anonymous writer states—

"... they passed by the island of Caymanas, which is not inhabited. There are on this island great serpents called 'Caymanas', like large lizards, which are edible."

This is clearly a description of the iguana, which is still found in the islands, and not of the caiman or alligator, which is not found in the islands, and of whose existence there is no unequivocal historical record except for local testimony to the killing of one solitary specimen in Cayman Brac some years ago: how this animal came to the island is a mystery which has never been solved. It is legitimate to suggest that the alleged past existence of alligators follows from the existence of the name "Caymans" and not vice versa, and to conclude that the inoffensive iguana was, in the first place, mistaken for an alligator.

### Chapter 3: Administration

IN the early days of settlement, public affairs were administered by Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The Justices functioned under the direction of one of their number whom they themselves selected and who was styled "Governor". In 1832 the principle of representative government was accepted and elected members known as Vestrymen were added to the administrative body. At the same time the title "Custos" was substituted for that of "Governor".

An Act of Parliament passed in 1863, provided for the ratification of all prior acts of the local body receiving the assent of the Govern-

ment of Jamaica. Under this authority, 20 acts, passed between 1832 and 1864, were submitted to the Governor of Jamaica whose assent to them was given in 1865. It was further provided in the Act that the Justices and Vestry should continue to exercise legislative powers, their enactments being subject to the assent of the Governor of Jamaica. Under the same authority the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Dependency, and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed.

In 1898 the powers of the Custos were vested in a Commissioner who combined administrative duties with those of a Judge of the Grand Court until the separate appointment for the first time in 1957 of a Stipendiary Magistrate, who, in the absence of appointment of any person to be Judge, has the powers and jurisdiction of Judge of the Grand Court in all cases except of capital felony. The Commissioner is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The seat of Government is at Georgetown, where the Commissioner resides.

The present Legislative Assembly of Justices and Vestry consists of the Commissioner as President, 27 Justices of the Peace and 27 Vestrymen. The Justices of the Peace are commissioned in a General Commission of the Peace by the Governor of Jamaica, the latest Commission being dated 30th May, 1957, when 28 Justices of the Peace (including the Commissioner) were appointed. An additional Justice was commissioned when the post of Stipendiary Magistrate was created in 1957.

The election of Vestrymen is held every two years, and is governed by an Act of 1832 which provided that "upon requisition of the Custos or Senior Magistrate, the Magistrates in the district shall call the people together and proceed to elect Vestrymen to serve for two years". Whereas women would appear to be included in the electorate, it has long been the practice for male taxpayers only to vote, the latter being defined in Law 5 of 1927 as "male persons between the ages of 18 and 60 years". The last election was held in August, 1958.

#### MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*President: A. H. Donald, O.B.E., Commissioner*

*Justices of the Peace (ex officio members)*

J. R. Astwood	T. A. Ebanks	Edwin Walton
E. S. Sherwood	J. R. Watler	J. N. Tibbatts
R. B. Bodden, M.B.E.	J. S. Smith	A. S. Rutty, M.B.E.
E. S. Parsons	D. V. Watler	W. T. Foster
A. B. Conolly	J. A. Panton	J. C. Lazzari
T. W. Farrington	S. O. Ebanks	R. B. Kirkconnell
E. O. Panton, M.B.E.	Bertram Ebanks	G. L. Lawrence
T. L. Bodden	E. M. Forbes	D. H. Foster
T. F. Hill, I.S.M.	L. A. Ebanks	
R. P. Bodden	O. G. Hurlston	

<i>Vestrymen (Elected)</i>	<i>Area Represented</i>	<i>Vestrymen (Elected)</i>	<i>Area Represented</i>
E. D. Merren	Georgetown	L. Thompson	Prospect
O. L. Panton	Georgetown	Lindberg Eden	Prospect
H. M. Coe	Georgetown	Carl Thompson	Prospect
W. W. Bodden	Georgetown		
A. B. Bush	Georgetown	W. A. McLaughlin	East End
Arthur H. Ebanks	West Bay	N. R. McLaughlin	East End
J. Cadian Ebanks	West Bay	Lincoln Bodden	East End
J. Prentice Powell	West Bay		
O. Graham Ebanks	West Bay	Craddock Ebanks	North Side
Wilborne Welds	West Bay	Samuel A. Powery	North Side
W. B. McCoy	Bodden Town	C. G. Kirkconnell	Lesser Islands
W. W. Wood	Bodden Town	K. P. Tibbets	Lesser Islands
Harold Stewart	Bodden Town	R. C. Foster	Lesser Islands
A. Biddle Bodden	Bodden Town	Nolan B. Foster	Lesser Islands
James Miller	Bodden Town		

The statement on the proposed new constitution which was published on 10th October, 1958, and which forms Appendix I to this Report, sets out the main provisions of the new constitution for the Cayman Islands as agreed at that date. Since then, the principal change which has been agreed is in the composition of the Legislative Assembly which will now comprise 12 elected members instead of the previously proposed 9, not less than 2 nor more than 3 official members, and not less than 2 nor more than 3 nominated members, to be appointed by the Governor.

## Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

IMPERIAL weights and measures are used throughout the Dependency.

## Chapter 5: Reading List

*Notes on the History of the Cayman Islands.* Dr. GEORGE S. S. HIRST, Jamaica, printed privately, *circa* 1910.

*The Cayman Islands: Their Stamps and Post Office.* D. B. ARMSTRONG, Junior Philatelic Society, 1911.

*Birds of the Cayman Islands.* R. P. LOWE, Ibis, 1911.

*The Postage Stamps of the Cayman Islands.* F. J. MELVILLE, Gibbons, 1914.

“Geology of the Cayman Islands” by S. A. MATLEY in *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society*, Vol. LXXXII, 1926.

*The Herpetology of the Cayman Islands.* CHAPMAN GRANT, Institute of Jamaica, 1940.

*Forestry in the Cayman Islands.* CHRISTOPHER SWABY and C. BERNARD LEWIS, Development and Welfare in the West Indies, Bulletin No. 23.

*The Fisheries of the Cayman Islands.* ERNEST F. THOMPSON, Development and Welfare in the West Indies, Bulletin No. 22.

*A Physical and Cultural Geography of the Cayman Islands.* EDWIN BEALE DORAN, Jr., 1953 (unpublished).\*

*The Windward Road.* ARCHIE CARR, Alfredy A. Knopf, 1956, New York.

*The Marine Mollusks of Grand Cayman* (Monograph No. 11), by R. TUCKER ABBOTT (Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, U.S.A.).

\* Copies of this work are available for study at the Commissioner's Office, Grand Cayman; the Library of the University of California, Berkeley, California; The West India Reference Library, Institute of Jamaica, Kingston, Jamaica. Microfilms are available at the British Museum, and at the Colonial Office Library.

## APPENDIX I

### *Public Statement on New Constitutions for the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands, 10th October, 1958\**

The present constitution of the Cayman Islands, which was established by an Act of the Imperial Parliament in 1863, provides for an Assembly composed of twenty-seven Justices of the Peace and twenty-seven elected Vestrymen. This Assembly has the power to pass laws subject to the consent of the Governor of Jamaica. There is also an Advisory Executive Council which has at present no constitutional sanction.

2. The constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands, which was established by the Queen in Council in 1873, provides for a Legislative Board consisting at the present time of the Commissioner, three official members and eight unofficial members. There is no provision for an Executive Council.
3. After discussion with the Government of Jamaica, and with representatives of the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands, it was decided in 1957 that the time had come to provide up-to-date constitutions for both of the Dependencies.
4. By an Act of Parliament entitled the "Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands Act, 1958", to which Her Majesty the Queen assented on 20th February, 1958, Her Majesty was empowered to make provision for the government of the Cayman Islands and of the Turks and Caicos Islands by Order in Council. These Orders in Council have now been drafted.†
5. It is proposed that there should be a separate Order in Council for each Dependency to provide for a constitution which would follow the pattern of other small territories in The West Indies. The link in future will be with the Governor, rather than the Government of Jamaica. At present the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands come within the terms of the Jamaica (Constitution) Order in Council, 1944, and amendments thereto, but these Orders in Council will cease to have effect when the final Jamaican Constitution, which will make no provision for the government of the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands, comes into operation. It is desirable that the new Constitutions for the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands should be brought into operation

\* The statement was issued in the Cayman Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands and Jamaica.

† The Cayman Islands (Constitution) Order in Council was made on 13th May, 1959, and was brought into effect on 4th July, 1959.

at the same time as the new Constitution of Jamaica. The exact date of this cannot yet be stated, but it is anticipated that it will be during the coming year, 1959.

6. It is contemplated that the main provisions of the new Constitutions, which will be the same for both Dependencies, will be:

(a) In place of the present Cayman Islands Assembly of Justices and Vestry and the Turks and Caicos Islands Legislative Board, there will be created Legislative Assemblies for both Dependencies. The composition of the Legislative Assemblies will be:

The Administrator (the proposed new title for the Commissioner), who shall preside.

3 official members to be appointed by the Governor.

3 nominated members to be appointed by the Governor.

9 elected members.

Before elections can take place, both Dependencies will have to pass Electoral Laws defining the Constituencies and providing for the procedure necessary for holding elections. It is proposed that there should be universal adult suffrage and voluntary registration of voters, and that the ratio of elected members to population should be approximately 1 : 1,000 or part of 1,000. It also proposed that the elections to the Legislative Assemblies should take place every three years.

(b) The creation of an Executive Council in each Dependency, the composition of which will be:

The Administrator.

2 official members appointed by the Governor.

1 nominated member to be appointed by the Governor from among the nominated members of the Legislative Assembly.

2 elected members to be elected by the elected and nominated members of the Assembly from among the elected members of the Assembly.

The Executive Council will be advisory to the Governor and to the Administrator. The Governor of Jamaica will be the Governor of each Dependency, and will preside at meetings of the Executive Council when he is in the Dependency if he thinks fit. Provision is also included for the elected members of the Executive Council to be removed by a resolution of the Legislative Assembly passed by not less than two-thirds of all of the nominated and elected members of the Assembly.

(c) The Governor will have the reserved powers usual in this type of constitution which he will be permitted to exercise in the interests of public order, public faith or good government. The Governor will also exercise the power of pardon in

capital cases, after consulting the Executive Council. The Governor will be able to delegate certain of his powers to the Administrator, but there are certain powers which he will not be able to delegate, such as the grant of land, the power of pardon, the power to constitute offices, and the appointment and dismissal of senior officers.

(d) The Legislature of Jamaica will have power to make laws for the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands as at present provided that no new Jamaican law will apply to the Dependencies unless:

- (i) it is in express terms made applicable thereto;
- (ii) the Governor has declared by Proclamation that the particular law shall apply to the Dependency, with such modifications as he may specify. The Governor will have power to cancel or amend such Proclamation if the need should arise at a later date.

The application to the Cayman Islands or the Turks and Caicos Islands of Jamaican laws enacted in the future thus rests solely with the Governor who will consult the Executive Council of the Dependency before making any such Proclamation. Thus, the representatives of the Dependencies will always be consulted before a Jamaican law is applied in the Dependency.

Administratively, the practice has always been for the Dependency to be consulted before a Jamaican law is applied to it, and this practice will continue, so that there will be both constitutional and administrative safeguards.

7. Laws in force immediately before the new Constitutions come into operation will remain in force, except so far as provision may be made for modifying, adapting or repealing any law to accord with the new constitutional position.

**APPENDIX II**  
*Persons dealt with by the Courts, 1957*

*Appendix II*

Offences	Total arrested or sum- moned to Court	Acquitted	Nolle Prosequi	Bound over	Awaiting trial	Order made	Convicted			Whipping	Fine
							M	F	J		
<i>Against lawful authority</i>											
Disorderly conduct	45	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Obstructing police, etc.	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vagrancy	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
<i>Against public morality</i>											
Indecent language	30	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Abusive language	7	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Abusive language	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Indecent exposure	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against the person</i>											
Grievous harm, wounding, etc.	7	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assaults	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Threats	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against property</i>											
Thefts and other stealings	9	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burglary, house and store breaking	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
False pretences, cheating, fraud, etc.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other—Trespass	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Damage to property	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against local laws</i>											
Against Traffic Ordinance	32	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Against Liquor Ordinance	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Bastardy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gambling	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Firearms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b>	164	10	—	—	8	—	3	3	2	2	117
							3	3	2	2	17

APPENDIX III  
Persons dealt with by the Courts, 1958

Offences	Total arrested or summoned to Court	Acquitted	Nolle Prosequi	Bound over	Awaiting trial	Order made	Convicted			Imprisonment			Whipping			Fine		
							M		J	M		J	M		J	M		F
							M	F		M	F		M	F		M	F	
<i>Against lawful authority</i>																		
Disorderly conduct	43	1					—	—		—	—		—	—	—	39	3	
Obstructing police, etc.	13	2					—	—		—	—		—	—	—	11	—	
<i>Against public morality</i>																42	2	
Indecent language	46	2					—	—		—	—		—	—	—	2	3	
Abusive language	6	1					—	—		—	—		—	—	—	16	5	
Vagrancy	1						—	—		—	—		—	—	—	1	—	
<i>Against the person</i>																2	—	
Grievous harm, wounding, etc.	8	3					—	—		—	—		—	—	—	4	—	
Murder	1	1					—	—		—	—		—	—	—	3	—	
Assaults	26	5					—	—		—	—		—	—	—	2	—	
Concealment of birth	1						—	—		—	—		—	—	—	4	—	
Indecent exposure	2						—	—		—	—		—	—	—	57	1	
<i>Against property</i>																1	—	
Thefts and other stealings	7	1					—	—		—	—		—	—	—	5	—	
False pretences, cheating, fraud, etc.	2						—	—		—	—		—	—	—	4	—	
Other—Trespass	6	2					—	—		—	—		—	—	—	2	—	
<i>Against local laws</i>																2	—	
Against Traffic Ordinance	66	8					—	—		—	—		—	—	—	—	—	
Against Liquor Ordinance	2						—	—		—	—		—	—	—	—	—	
Bastardy	—															5	—	
Firearms	6	1					—	—		—	—		—	—	—	4	—	
Town and Communities Law	4						—	—		—	—		—	—	—	2	—	
Immigration Law	2						—	—		—	—		—	—	—	—	—	
<b>TOTALS</b>							<b>242</b>	<b>28</b>		<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>		<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>194</b>	<b>16</b>	

WEST

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40'

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Boatsw

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North West

W Little Bluff

19°

70'

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